# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-063* *3 April 1995*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Syrian Ambassador Says No Security Agreement

*MM3103124295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 95 p 1*

[Report by Rafiq Khalil Makhluf: "Syrian Ambassador to Washington: We Have Not Yet Agreed on Arrangements"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington—Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim has denied that the negotiations with Israel have arrived at an agreement on security arrangements. He told AL-HAYAH that the negotiation process with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich is continuing, and "we hope to reach an agreement. But there are still gaps which we have not yet bridged."

He added that it is premature at this stage to talk about meetings at the level of military experts. "We have to secure the principles of security arrangements and reach an understanding on them so as to form a framework within which the experts could operate."

Well-informed sources have said that the main disagreement over security principles still revolves around the equality principle. And that Israel continues to reject this principle. The sources described Israeli leakages about an agreement as an attempt to exert pressure on Syria so that, if an agreement is not reached, it would be seen as the obstructive party. [passage omitted]

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Reacts to UN Extension of Libya Sanctions

#### Arab League Chief Views Extension

*NC0104090495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 1 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the UN Security Council's resolution maintaining sanctions on Libya will not resolve the Lockerbie crisis.

In statements to the London-based Arabic language newspaper AL-HAYAH today, he asked the United States, France, and Britain to understand the Libyan stand and its legality. He clarified that there is no provision in international law that forces Libya to hand over its citizens for trial in another country merely on the basis of suspicion.

The Arab League secretary general emphasized that escalation will not solve the problem nor will it lead to identifying the real culprits. Rather, it will increase tension in the region, he said.

He (?called on) the Security Council to endorse the suspects' trial at the International Court of Justice in The Hague before a Scottish court.

'Abd-al-Majid said Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi has demonstrated full determination about the search for political solution to this crisis without compromising his country's sovereignty. He added that it was time the Western countries helped him is this regard.

#### Arab League 'Regrets' Extension

*NC0104162495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League today expressed its regret over the decision to keep international sanctions on Libya. It said: This stance, which was taken by the Security Council, is not realistic and is not consistent with logic or the law. It bolsters the belief that the Security Council is biased and that it is insisting on politicizing a legal matter in a way that increases tension in the region.

Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, said in a statement to our radio's correspondent today that it is regrettable that the U.S. continues its rejection of the Arab proposals. These Arab proposals constitute a sound and objective basis for a fair trial which could end the crisis. He clarified that the Arab countries support the Libyan stance out of their belief that it is sound and consistent with the UN's principles and the UN Charter.

Ambassador 'Imran said the Arab League hopes the three concerned Western states will review their stance and accept the Arab proposals because these could put an end to the increasing popular anger in all the Arab and Islamic countries resulting from the oppressive siege of Libya.

## Islamic Affairs

### Popular Arab-Islamic Conference Meets in Khartoum

#### Al-Turabi Addresses Session

*EA3103210695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Friendship Hall in Khartoum today witnessed the biggest Arab and Islamic gathering so far participating in the activities of the third session of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference [PAIC], against a background of intense world interest. The opening session was addressed by Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, the PAIC secretary general, who stressed that the conference was the first expression in the world of the honor of Arabism and the current Muslim awakening. He said the West was persisting in its hostility toward Islam, and that the United Nations had become a tool used against Islamic countries

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and Muslims. He affirmed that the Muslims were persevering with their awakening by means of authentication, the shari'ah and the [word indistinct] of their history. They were also persevering in unifying the Islamic Nation.

Al-Turabi added that the conference was seeking to deal with the crises of nationality, language, tribe, sectarianism, and denominationalism. He said Muslims believed in the history of Christianity, and proposed to religions people, namely Christians and all other religions, to form a single organization and front to engage in sincere dialogue and to cooperate in faith in the face of corrupt materialism. Dr. al-Turabi added that Muslims were calling on people in the West and the rest of the world to join hands in brotherhood with freedom, quality, and full cooperation.

Referring to Palestine, he said the conference would deal with this issue to ensure that the principles of rectitude were upheld.

Turning to the Muslim minorities in the world, Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi said they were entitled to the freedoms of faith, worship, and life. He stressed that the Muslims were prepared to draft and sign a single world charter.

He expressed regret over what was happening in Afghanistan and all the Islamic countries, particularly Somalia, the republics of Central Asia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the world was today interested in human rights, and that Muslims were interested in eliminating oppression and opening doors to freedom. The Muslims knew that the issue of human rights was being used by the West as a pretext to attack the Islamic shari'ah and any Islamic regime.

Drawing attention to the role of missionary organizations, his excellency said that those working for them were gainfully employed professionals who were ill-intentioned and for the most part intriguing against Islam. [sentence as heard]

The opening session of the conference was also addressed by Mr. Aboud Jumbe, the former vice president of Tanzania, who said Muslims today were up against various attacks. He called for unity and resistance against these threats.

Mr. Ahmad Ubaydat, a former Jordanian prime minister, praised Sudan's leading role in unifying the Arab and Islamic ranks. His excellency called on the Islamic nation to forget its differences and defend its entity and rights.

Mr. Gadi Husayn, the amir of the Islamic community in Pakistan, stressed the importance of activating and mobilizing the Islamic masses in confronting the threat of the so-called New World Order, to ensure that the Islamic and Arab Nation achieved its independence and sovereignty. He stressed the importance of integration between the Arab and Islamic states.

Mr. Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim brothers in Egypt, also addressed the opening session. He explained the importance of the conference in the context of Islam facing flagrant Western hostility. He stressed the importance of unified action and the resolution of differences.

(Anne Kofi) from Sweden, during her address to the opening session of the conference, called for solidarity and unity to face the problems surrounding the Islamic world. He explained the importance of dialogue and the creation of a suitable atmosphere for it.

Mr. Akbar Muhammad, representative of the Islamic communities in the United States, told the session of the Islamic awakening in the Western states and the hostility Islam is facing there.

The conference has continued its sessions. This afternoon's session dwelt on the theme: The Islamic Nation in Confronting the Zionist Plan. During it, Lieutenant General Sa' al-Din al-Hadhili, from the Arab Republic of Egypt, affirmed that the current regimes in the Islamic world had no way of confronting the Zionist and Western anti-Islamic tide. He stressed the need to mobilize Arab and Islamic efforts to confront the Zionist plan.

In the context of the peace accords signed by some Arab states with the Israeli enemy, other speakers confirmed their rejection of the accords.

### Further on al-Turabi Address

*EA3103135595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, March 31 (SUNA)—Secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, Dr. Hasan Abdallah al-Turabi, Thursday [30 March] reported at length to the first sitting of the third session on the current state of affairs in the world vis-a-vis Islam and Muslims and reviewed the achievements and future preoccupations of the conference.

Dr. al-Turabi said the second session in December 1992 was a great step forward which exemplified the spirit of consensus beyond nationalism, chauvinism, sectarianism, and political factionalism, and that is why its recommendations sought to promote reconciliation between warring neighbours, such as Iran and Iraq, and between a ruling regime and a populace in revolt as in Algeria or between forces fighting for power as in Afghanistan and Somalia.

"The third meeting will hopefully move from words and deliberation to effective deeds and transactions", he said and hoped to branch out into countries wherever the conference will [passage indistinct].

He accounted for the historical co-existence between Muslims and westerners and deplored the hostile tendency of the western world of today towards Muslims. Some westerners might have feared disunity in their quest for the satisfaction of the interests and whims, and

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consequently they made Islam a joint target and portrayed it as a common dangerous specter, he said.

Dr. al-Turabi slammed the United Nations as the "veto mechanism that is called the United Nations" which he said now functions incorrectly and has now become a weapon against Islam itself in legal and social terms. He said the westerners had taken liberty to classify Muslims as proper and respectful on the one hand, and as fundamentalists on the other.

As for the latter type of Islam, the westerners decreed it should be fought against using the media economics and politics or else should be provoked into conflicts, allowing survival for the fittest, he said.

However, Dr. al-Turabi said, there are still many prominent westerners who pursue righteousness, justice and humanitarianism and there are in the west benevolent organisations which strive hard for the brotherhood and unity of humanity. The general secretary said Muslim peoples today are resolved to embark on the the solid ground of belief in God and the shari'ah and drawing on the lessons of their history that progress in all aspects of life can best be attained through commitment to Islam.

Dr. al-Turabi predicted that the public life of the Muslim masses shall show that, guided by the spirit of Islam, the Muslims are heading towards unity and oneness.

He said distinction should be made between the historical Christianity and those in the west who are using it as a means of suppression and justice. "Muslims move confidently towards the faithful, be they Christian or otherwise, who promote sincere dialogue and cooperation of religious movements in the face of rampant and corrupt materialism", he added.

Dr. al-Turabi lamented the bleak picture of the Arab world today where disunity and feuding are the norm and where advocates of the rights of the Palestinians are isolated and outlawed. He said the Palestinians have been let down by the leadership, largely because of the betrayal by Arab governments, and are now grabbed in humiliation represented in the Israeli "take it or leave it" offer, a deal that was rejected by this conference in which are represented most of the popular organisations of the Muslim nation.

"Believers do not accept injustice disguised as practicality and do not deem the condification of oppression in international agreements as normal", he argued, adding that the PAIC does not accept this false normalization, because it is [word indistinct] to subjugation and should appropriately be called submission.

### Plenary Debate Ends; No Accord Reached

*AB0204191895 Paris AFP in English 0100 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[By Acil Tabbara]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, April 2 (AFP)—Nearly 300 hundred [as received] Islamic fundamentalists concluded three days of plenary debate here late Saturday [1 April] united on the need for Islamic solidarity but divided on how to achieve it.

Final resolutions from the Islamic and Arab People's Conference are scheduled to be released Sunday following negotiations among delegations still sharply at odds on strategy.

Somali President Ali Mahdi appealed to the closing plenary session Saturday for "massive humanitarian aid" for his country" and urged the conference to form a committee to promote reconciliation among warring Somali factions.

Earlier, a representative of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani also called for Islamic aid.

"There are no Moslem humanitarian organizations in Kabul," said delegate Ahmad Shah. "We need doctors, teachers, engineers, experts. We appeal to you to take part in our reconstruction just as you did in our jihad (holy war) for the liberation of Afghanistan."

But the stars on the final day were Anwar Haddam, representing the banned Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and Fathi Shakaki, of the Palestinian military group Islamic Jihad.

Haddam warned Algerian authorities that they could choose dialogue, as stipulated by a Rome conference of opposition forces, or face a continuation of the jihad by Islamic fighters until the establishment of an Islamic state.

Shakaki vowed that his movement would carry on with the struggle against Israel and did not consider itself bound by an autonomy accord worked out between Israeli and PLO leaders.

Hurling a challenge at Israel, he said: "Neither your nuclear arms nor the submission accords (signed with Arab parties) will give you peace and security."

Atallah Massoud, a Tunisian delegate representing the opposition formation An-Nahada, denounced what he said was the repression of Islamic activists in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

He was followed by dozens of speakers from Africa, central Asia and Moslem communities in Europe who lamented the current weakness and disarray in the Islamic world.

"We don't have have to shed tears for the Moslem predicament, we have to act," asserted Mustapha Mashour, an official with Egypt's Moslem Brotherhood.

"If Moslems united, they would be the mightiest force in the world."

### Somali, Eritrean Envoys Comment

*EA0204203595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference concludes its third session this

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morning at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, at which time it will issue its final statement, which will include resolutions and recommendations. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim Ahmad Ali, representative of the Somali National Alliance, spoke at yesterday's meeting, and reviewed developments in Somalia. He appealed to the Muslim world to assist Somalia and rebuild what was destroyed by the UN and U.S. Forces.

The meeting was also addressed by Somali leader Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who said that Somalia was passing through an important and difficult stage. He called for the establishment of an Islamic force to tackle issues which the Islamic world is subjected to. Ali Mahdi Mohamed expressed his regret over the stand of the Muslim states toward the Somali crisis, and asked the conference to adopt initiatives which would restore stability to Somalia. He said: In Somalia we have decided to apply Islamic law. [passage omitted]

The representative for Eritrean Muslims, Mr. 'Umar Arafah Ahmad, referred to what the Muslims in Eritrea are subjected to. He said that the ruling regime in Eritrea had conspired over the country's independence to serve the enemies of Islam. He stressed the need for the unification of Muslim movements. [passage omitted]

### Conference Concludes 3d Session

*EA0204202795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference this morning concluded the proceedings of its third session, held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum from 30 March to 2 April.

In its final statement, the conference confirmed its interest in entrenching the pillars of justice and freedom and equality of peoples on the basis of the principles of Islam. The conference stressed that the human rights slogan was a slogan bandied about by the West and used as way of violating other states' sovereignty, and of forcing deprivation on countries and nations.

The conference recommended a new international convention in place of the human rights convention. The conference gave its blessing to the establishment of a World Islamic Organization for Human Rights. The conference highlighted the setting up of voluntary and religious propagation societies confirming their local, regional, and international roles. As to the position of the Islamic nation in the face of Zionism, the conference confirmed its rejection of what is happening in the Arab and Islamic region to facilitate relations with the Zionist entity.

The conference condemned the western onslaught on Islam and called for dialogue between Islam and the West. As to the status of Muslim minorities in the world, the conference stressed its support for all Muslim minorities in the world, and appealed to Muslims to support them. The conference called for negotiations with the world to write a world convention signed by all. The convention should set down ways of dealing with the issue of religious minorities.

The conference also dealt with the concerns and problems of the Muslim peoples, and called for the setting up of a dialogue committee between the Chechens and Moscow to stop the bloodshed in Chechnya. It called on Arab and Muslim states to bring about reconciliation among their peoples, and called for the lifting of the blockades currently imposed on Iraq and Libya.

The conference expressed its appreciation of Sudan's stand toward attempts to harm its independence and interfere with its identity. The conference confirmed its support and backing for the peoples of Kashmir, Bosnia, and Afghanistan.

The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference appealed to the Algerian Government to resort to comprehensive dialogue with all the nationalist and Islamic forces to find a way out of the current crisis in Algeria. The conference announced its support for efforts toward Arab reconciliation.

The conference also stressed the importance of setting up organized working forces in the public services as well as in Arab and Islamic economic activities. It praised the great role of the Arab and Islamic student and youth movements. It stressed the need for interest in the role of the Muslim woman in society.

Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, the secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, will hold a news conference at 1700 this evening at the Friendship Hall, to be attended by local and foreign media agencies. Meanwhile, participants at the conference will attend a public meeting organized by the state of Khartoum at 1800 this afternoon at al-Khadra Square, in honor of the conference.

### Exiled Islamist: al-Nahda Rejects 'Path of Violence'

*BR3103131795 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 31 Mar 95 p 27*

[Interview with Tunisian Islamic party al-Nahdah Chairman Rached Ghannouchi by Julio A. Parrado in Cordoba on 30 March: "The Tunis Regime Is Infuriating Islam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cordoba—Rached Ghannouchi is the chairman of the main Tunisian Islamic party, "al-Nahdah" (Renaissance). Charged with conspiring against Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's totalitarian regime in 1991, Al Ghannouchi fled the country and is currently an exile in London. Yesterday he was expelled from Spain, which he was visiting to attend a course on Islam in Cordoba.

[Parrado] Is Tunisia running the risk of becoming a second Algeria?

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[Ghannouchi] Al-Nahdah refuses to follow the path of violence, even though the government is provoking us into reacting violently so as to have a pretext to suppress any sort of democracy in the future. We cannot guarantee that other parties or groups opting for violence will not emerge in the coming period.

[Parrado] Is this a warning or a threat?

[Ghannouchi] We are only drawing attention to a problem. I am not hoping that a confrontation will take place.

[Parrado] It is a matter of fact, however, that a number of terrorist attacks did occur in Tunisia in the early 1990's.

[Ghannouchi] Some violent actions did take place, but these were isolated cases. They were carried out by groups of young people who could no longer stand the absence of democratic reforms.

[Parrado] With what other north African parties do you have friendly relations?

[Ghannouchi] We have friendly relations with all Muslims because Islam commands us to. Ours is an independent party. As far as the the Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] is concerned, we do not entirely agree with what they are doing.

[Parrado] Far from giving signs of moving toward democracy, in 1994 Ben Ali organized elections under an electoral system which enabled him to secure 90 percent of the vote. Is there any chance of reforms being undertaken from within?

[Ghannouchi] We are continuing to bring political pressure on the regime to force it to grant democratic rights. We are conducting negotiations with the other opposition parties in order to create a democratic front. We hope that one day the regime will realize that the only way to prevent violence is through democracy and freedom.

[Parrado] How will you exert this pressure?

[Ghannouchi] We will only apply political pressure.

[Parrado] You are aware of and indeed have denounced the strong support which Ben Ali is getting from many western countries.

[Ghannouchi] Western countries are providing Tunisia with major financial aid, but they are doing nothing to encourage reform. We are hoping the West will now change its attitude to Muslim countries and realize that the current authoritarian regimes are not in the West's interest.

[Parrado] What sort of political model are you advocating for Tunisia, now that the socialist-type model has failed?

[Ghannouchi] We all agree that Tunisia's main problem is the absence of civil rights and the dictatorship. The problem does not lie in changing from a secular system to an Islamic system. What we need, above all, is the rule of law.

[Parrado] What law? Islamic law?

[Ghannouchi] It makes no difference. The important thing is to have laws.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Hamas Bomb Explodes in Gaza Residential Building

#### 8 Killed; 30 Wounded

*TA0204141695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight people have been killed and 30 wounded in an explosion at a residential building in Gaza city's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a source inside the Palestinian Police said that the explosion occurred while Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives were preparing an explosive charge. Kalashinikov rifles were also found at the scene.

The explosion took place on the second floor of a three-story building in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. The two top floors of the building collapsed. Eight people were killed and 30 were wounded. Emergency rescue forces and Palestinian policemen rushed to the scene.

#### Hamas Blames Israel, 'Arafat

*TA0204182595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders claimed that Israel was responsible for the explosion which occurred today in a residential building in Gaza City's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Eight people were killed and 30 others were wounded in the blast. Several wanted terrorists were among those killed.

In the Gaza Strip, the accusations against Israel were made by Mahmud al-Zahhar. Speaking in Amman, Hamas official Ibrahim Ghawsah said that not only Israel but also Yasir 'Arafat were to blame.

#### PA Official on Documents, Bombs at Site

*JN0204212195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in Gaza; from the "Panorama" program]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Gaza explosion today, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that the Palestinian police have found important documents at the site of the explosion, including instructions from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement leadership to carry out terrorist operations in and outside the Gaza Strip.

In a statement today, Hamas accused Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian security department of being behind the incident.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Palestinian police also found a letter proving that the place was being used to manufacture explosives. The letter also included a written confession by Kamal Kuhayl, one of the explosion victims, admitting that he participated in killing certain people and demanding that Hamas supply him with funds to finance the operations.

'Abd-al-Rahim noted that the police defused 18 kg of explosives it found at the site, which would have caused a terrible disaster among the people had they exploded. The police also found seven explosive charges made of liquid hydrogen, six detonators, a (Kez) missile, and a bag of explosives, which were defused.

'Abd-al-Rahim, who is also a member of the Higher Security Council in the PA, said that the explosion occurred when a Hamas group was preparing a boobytrapped briefcase. According to investigations, the victims were five dead, one of whom is Kamal Kuhayl, who was preparing the suitcase and who was killed by the explosive belt which he tied around his waist. Kuhayl's assistant, Nidal Dababishah; a four-year-old child; Ra'id al-Shattari; and Kamal Abu-'Awn.

According to 'Abd-al-Rahim, the explosive materials confirm the Palestinian police suspicions that certain cooperation and coordination existed between some Israeli sides and some Hamas groups which want to threaten the peace process and delay any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

According to 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian police impounded several bombs bearing the insignia of the Israeli Army.

### Police Chief Provides Details

*JN0204221495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali [Palestinian Authority police department director] has said in a news conference this evening that five persons were killed and two others were injured as a result of the huge explosion in a building in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza.

Brigadier General al-Jabali said:

[Begin al-Jabali recording] At 1450 [1250 GMT] a huge explosion occurred in the al-Di'bis building in the Shaykh Radwan area. The building consists of three floors. The third floor is occupied by the al-Di'bis family, and the ground floor consists of warehouses. The place was an explosives factory and an operations room for the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

In that place we found the following: 30 kg of hydroxide, which is liquid material for manufacturing explosives; 30 kg of white powder which is also used for manufacturing explosives; 70 kg of liquid oxide used in manufacturing explosives. We found six rockets and explosive charges ready for use, a big 10-kg missile also ready for use, two suitcases full of explosives that were defused.

How did the incident occur? Kamal and his companions were preparing one of the suitcases—a samsonite suitcase—which exploded among them. Kamal Kuhyal was putting on an explosive belt, which he usually put around his waist. The belt also exploded causing this terrible explosion.

Kamal Kuhayl died immediately, along with Nidal Dababish who was with Kamal; Bilal Di'bis, a four-year old child; Ra'id al-Shanshiri; and Kamal Abu-'Awd.

The injured and the mutilated are Sa'id Di'bis and Hani Di'bis. The police took control of the situation. They removed all explosive, poisonous, and liquid materials and moved them from the site. The police took pictures of the site, the bodies, and the mutilated. They took control of the crime scene.

We seized important documents that include instructions to Kamal to carry out operations inside and outside the Strip, and written instructions from his command, and documents on how the funds are sent to him.

In fact, these operations and what happened today clearly reveal this misguided group's contempt for the lives of people and citizens and how it kept its explosives factories and explosive materials in residential areas.

The police and explosive experts dealt with the problem. There there was the problem of a 30 kg of powder that no power on earth could prevent from exploding except by putting water on it. When the explosive expert put water on it, poisonous gases came from it that led to nearly 40 or 50 cases of fainting. Had that material exploded or if it was leaked in the area it would have caused hundreds of deaths. Had that amount of explosives been exploded, it would have wiped out all of Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and killed thousands of citizens.

These are the ideas of the theoreticians imported from Khorasam, Tabriz, and Isfahan. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### PA Charges Israeli 'Agent' in Car Bombing

*NC0204190095 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 2 (AFP)—The Palestinian Authority [PA] on Sunday [2

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April] named an Israeli agent it says killed Hani al-'Abid, a leader of the hardline Islamic Jihad, in a car bomb attack in November.

Abraham Rahmani carried out the attack on November 2 in Gaza, the self-rule authority's prosecutor Khalid al-Qidrah said.

The Palestinians blamed Israel for the death of the Islamic Jihad leader immediately after the attack, and the Jewish state did not deny responsibility.

"After the attack we arrested Palestinian collaborators who admitted that the bomb was placed in Hani al-Abid's car by Abraham Rahmani, an Israeli security services agent," al-Qidrah said.

Palestinian justice "minister" Furayh Abu-Middayn said "details of this attack and other attacks in which the Jewish state is involved will be given at a press conference in several days' time."

Abu-Middayn told the East Jerusalem daily AL-QUDS that Israel "is involved in several incidents aimed at disturbing public order in the self-rule Gaza Strip."

### Authority Discusses Redeployment, Other Topics

*JN0104214495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said the reports being circulated about Israeli redeployment are untrue. During a meeting of the National Authority [NA] cabinet today, the president said that according to the Palestinian concept, redeployment means withdrawal of the occupation forces with no return. It appears the Israelis are now facing a dilemma, he noted.

President 'Arafat said the Israelis should move out of the areas under Palestinian geographic jurisdiction, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles.

The NA cabinet met under President 'Arafat today. Following the meeting al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, made a statement to the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, in which he said:

The cabinet reviewed the political situation and the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and heard President 'Arafat's report on the contacts held through the accredited channels between the brother president and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, especially concerning Israeli ideas about the concept of redeployment of the Israeli Army from the populated Palestinian areas, cities, and villages, how the Palestinian police will operate, and geographic jurisdiction.

President 'Arafat emphasized outright rejection of any violation of the agreement, and said the elections can only be held under Palestinian jurisdiction.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the cabinet emphasized the Palestinian position which says that redeployment from all populated areas, cities, and villages is a priority in order to prepare for the Palestinian elections. The second stage of redeployment of the Israeli Army to certain areas, following the elections and formation of the [Palestinian Authority] council, should be carried out in areas outside the Palestinian geographic jurisdiction that include the West Bank and Gaza Strip, except the areas that are left for the final status negotiations.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet heard a report from Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the results of election negotiations, which have begun to make some progress. He added that the cabinet emphasized that there are no ideas about Janin first or anything else, and that the Palestinian position calls for reaching a comprehensive agreement that is implemented in accordance with a timetable agreed on by the two parties.

The presidency's secretary general said the cabinet reviewed the Israeli closure policy imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since the Israeli Government imposed this closure policy, which conflicts with the economic agreement concluded with Israel that calls for free trade, the suffering of our people has increased. Israel allowed only 20 trucks to carry the strip's products to Haifa Port and the central market. In practice, the number was no more than six trucks because of the so-called security inspection.

He added that in implementation of the president's instructions, Minister Jamil al-Tarifi sent a strongly-worded protest message to the Israeli side warning against the repercussions of this policy and holding the Israel Government responsible for violating the agreement and everything that has resulted from the starving policy, especially since Israel previously prevented the entry of necessary food into the strip.

The presidency's secretary general added that a meeting was held with the Israeli side by a delegation led by al-Tarifi and that the Israeli policy was discussed. Following that meeting, another meeting was held at the Erez crossing attended by Israeli commander of the southern area and the Israeli liaison officer, ranking Palestinian security commanders, and the liaison officer in the Gaza Strip. It was agreed to increase the number of trucks that are given licenses to carry the strip's products, in convoys with an Israeli escort.

The Israeli side was informed that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] will begin to import its requirements from Egypt and Jordan through the Rafah crossing and the bridge on the Jordan River, according to the back-to-back system, until cargo crossings are opened.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the cabinet believes this closure policy, carried out under a security pretext, is aimed at destroying the Palestinian economy, which has begun to depend on itself. The PNA is expressing its resentment with the Israeli bureaucracy—if the intentions are sincere—that obstructs any agreements with the Israeli

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Government. The PNA holds the Israeli Government responsible for these Israeli violations of the agreement. The continuation of this situation will lead the PNA to reconsider the economic agreement. It also holds the Israeli Government responsible for any results of this starving policy.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the cabinet hailed the honorable traders who adopted a patriotic position on the scarcity of necessary foods, saying this position demonstrates the morals of our people. At the same time, the cabinet condemned the practices of a limited minority of greedy traders who store up foods and increase prices. He said these traders do not fear God and that their practice conflicts with our people's morals and heritage of solidarity and support for one another during all crises and difficult times. The ministers warned these traders from going further with this greed at the expense of the people's food and steadfastness. Hence, the brother president informed the cabinet that he issued instructions to the Supply Department to watch prices and the traders who store up food and to bring to account those who lack conscience and morals. These traders will be sent to the State Security Court in accordance with the law.

He added the cabinet discussed the subject of taxes, and hailed the response of citizens in some areas in the West Bank through voluntarily paying taxes that were more than the taxes the Israelis used to collect by force. The cabinet called on all citizens in all areas to pay their taxes in order to provide for self-dependence and to build the homeland. The cabinet will discuss adopting a decision on incentives for those who paid their taxes in past years. He said the cabinet decided to collect property tax for 1993 and 1994, and to exempt those who paid dues in the previous period, on condition that payment takes place within two months in order to benefit from this exemption. Only those who pay during these months will benefit from this decision.

The presidency's secretary general said the cabinet decided to register local charitable voluntary societies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the Ministry of Social Affairs. As for the nongovernmental international organizations, the Ministry of Social Affairs will be responsible for their registration in accordance with the law, but it should coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on how far it is necessary to register these organizations. Coordination should also be made with other competent ministries on registration of these organizations and following up their activities.

He added that the cabinet lauded the official and unofficial efforts made to solve the problem between the Orthodox Church and the current Russian Government on the ownership of a plot of land in Jericho. It was agreed to hand over this land, which amounts to 10 donums, to the Russian Government, in accordance with its request, and the PNA will compensate the church with 12 donums in a nearby area.

He added that the cabinet hailed King Hassan II for his decision adopted at the Jerusalem Committee on setting up a fund for Jerusalem, and expressed hope that his majesty will be the representative of Palestine in the committee that supervises this fund, in light of his knowledge of the priorities.

The cabinet discussed the subject of pilgrimage and hailed the Saudi positions on the Palestinian pilgrims in spite of the Saudi Government's decision to reduce the number of pilgrims of all Islamic countries. The cabinet has learned that the number of Palestinian pilgrims is 10,000 from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and from inside the Green Line. Minister Hasan Tahbub said he was informed that the approval of this number of pilgrims has been decided in order to support the Palestinian Authority and in honor of President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] during his meeting with His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Hasan Tahbub emphasized that the Saudi side has promised to increase this number next year. All pilgrims will carry Palestinian passports. There will be 4,000 pilgrims from the West Bank, 3,333 from Gaza, and 2,667 from within the Green Line.

The cabinet hailed the fraternal Jordanian Government's position on facilitating the entry of Palestinian pilgrims who hold Palestinian passports. It hailed the position of fraternal Egypt in this respect.

He added that the cabinet discussed the Italian projects in Bethlehem, and decided to remove all obstacles facing implementation of all projects and to protect them. These projects have been requested by the PLO. It was decided that PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction] will appoint one efficient employee to work with those who implement these projects to ensure that they are implemented on the best way possible and in a manner that serves the homeland and the citizens.

The cabinet also decided to form a committee of the ministers of education, health, and social affairs to coordinate with the UN Relief and Works Agency, which will move all its establishments to Gaza Strip.

The cabinet then discussed the security situation. The brother president presented a comprehensive report on the security situation and hailed the great efforts the Palestinian security organizations are making, and the response of citizens in the Palestinian Authority areas to these efforts, in order to safeguard the homeland and the citizens and to entrench the first pillar, which is providing security for economic development.

## 'Arafat Denies Redeployment, Meets Kozyrev

*JN0104152095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said the reports being circulated about Israeli redeployment are untrue. During a meeting for the [Palestinian] National Authority [NA] cabinet today, the president

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said that according to the Palestinian concept, redeployment means withdrawal of the occupation forces with no return [to the territories]. It appears that the Israelis are now facing a dilemma, he noted.

President 'Arafat added that the Israelis should move out of the areas under Palestinian geographic jurisdiction, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

The NA cabinet met under President 'Arafat today. The conferees discussed several important issues. The cabinet also reviewed the political situation of the negotiations with Israel.

Following this meeting, President 'Arafat received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He urged Moscow to play a greater role in the negotiations and pressure Israel in order to implement the second phase of the DOP. President 'Arafat and the Russian foreign minister will soon hold a news conference.

### Bethlehem Mayor Receives Russian Foreign Minister

*JN0104152695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Bethlehem on the first visit of its kind by a Russian minister to the city. Kozyrev visited the municipality building where he was received by Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor and minister of tourism, and several Palestinian figures. Frayj and the Russian minister discussed several issues, including the Middle East peace process, and the Israeli obstacles to this process.

### Al-Husayni Receives Russian Official in Jerusalem

*JN0204190895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian National Authority member responsible for the Jerusalem file, met at Orient House today with Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy Russian foreign minister.

Talks dealt with latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Al-Husayni explained to the Russian official the obstacles Israeli is placing before the implementation of the Declaration of Principles concerning the redeployment and holding elections.

Al-Husayni emphasized that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. He explained the difficult circumstances the city is suffering under the Israeli siege and closure.

Al-Husayni spoke about the importance of Orient House's role in the peace process since the Madrid conference.

For his part, Posuvalyuk emphasized his country's firm position on the subject of just peace and the need to advance the peace process. He stressed his country's firm position on Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories.

### Official Denies Shots Fired at 'Arafat's Office

*JN0104190395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, an official Palestinian source stated that the report carried by the Israeli News Agency about firing at President Yasir 'Arafat's office is absolutely untrue.

### PLO Aide: U.S. 'Dissociating' From Peace Process

*MM3103155795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 95 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Washington Considers Its Signing of Declaration of Principles the End of Its Role as Peace Process Sponsor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has affirmed that, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles at the White House, U.S. President Clinton's administration has taken up a position of dissociating itself from its commitments as a main sponsor of the peace process. He said that the Israeli [as published] Administration saw the signing of the Declaration of Principles as the end of the road.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Abu-Mazin said that the signing of the Declaration of Principles at the White House was the beginning of the process of settling the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian question, which is the essence of that conflict. He said that the U.S. Administration had forgotten that peace cannot be made with just signatures and that it should be followed up and contacts continued with all parties.

Abu-Mazin, who signed the Oslo agreement, stressed that "this U.S. position simply means giving Rabin a free hand in handling implementation of the agreement any way he likes, not in accordance with the spirit of the provisions of the agreement but rather by imposing new realities outside the framework of the agreement, in so doing exploiting the current imbalance of powers."

Abu-Mazin said that the U.S. Administration's position on the Rabin government's approach has been one not only of maintaining silence about that government's subversion of the peace process but also of defending it in fact by claiming that there should be no interference in matters that are still under discussion and negotiation between the parties concerned, and that it could not interfere because it does not wish to influence the future when the final status is discussed.

Abu-Mazin said that the U.S. moves are characterized by "information and publicity" with the sole objective of uniting the parties concerned behind one target and against one enemy, namely terrorism and the forces of extremism, so as to quickly score tangible gains for its foreign policy.

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On recent rumors that he refused to assume the chairmanship of the negotiating committee, Abu-Mazin said that so far he has not agreed to lead the negotiations because certain matters must be discussed first, related to the work structure in the [Palestinian] Authority [PA]. He said that he deferred acceptance of a return to the negotiations until the PLO Executive Committee's meeting in May.

Abu-Mazin said that the Executive Committee's decision on [his] chairmanship of the negotiating committee was confirmation of a previous decision, and that if he did preside over the negotiations he would use a new strategy based mainly on the implementation of the letter and spirit of the Declaration of Principles agreement by all parties to pave the way for the continued implementation of the provisions of the agreement through to the final phase. Abu-Mazin said that it was too early to talk about making changes in the Palestinian negotiating team "because he still has not decided to accept chairmanship of the negotiations."

He did say, however, that, in his view, there was no need for a change of individuals and that Nabil Sha'th would continue to discharge the duties assigned to him.

Abu-Mazin said that his call for the suspension of the negotiations stems basically from a clear objective and a specific concept necessitating not only a comprehensive assessment of the negotiating process but also of the course of implementation of the entire transitional agreement since the signing of the Cairo agreement to this day. He explained that a suspension of the negotiations would provide the necessary time interval for the Palestinian side to think and reexamine the situation through its legitimate institutions, and would also bring the real peace camp in Israel face to face with its responsibilities.

Abu-Mazin rejected the "Janin first" plan proposed by Israel and said that he would not advise the PA to accept it because it would divide the issue of redeployment. Actually, he said, the Declaration of Principles entitled us to a full redeployment in all West Bank territories.

On the question of his return to the autonomy areas, Abu-Mazin said: "For me, going back is not a problem at all. The time will come when I will permanently live in the homeland."

He emphasized that he had not fought in order to remain in exile and that his return would depend on the political circumstances.

## Palestinian Police Chief on Security Situation, Problems

*MM0304114695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 95 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Police Commander Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have Security Committees Coordinating With Israel To Combat Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police, has stressed that the Palestinian National Authority is making extensive efforts to enforce stable security conditions in the self-rule areas within the constraints of the resources and means available to the Palestinian police, which he described as "meager resources." He denied that there is any laxity on the part of the Palestinian security forces and police as regards establishing security in Gaza and Jericho.

Nasr Yusuf told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Palestinian-Israeli coordination committees are working to combat terrorism. He added that terrorism is an international problem, not just the Palestinians' problem.

The efforts we are making complement international and regional efforts in this connection. He stressed that positive results will be reached in the next stage. Nasr Yusuf pointed out that the Palestinian police had succeeded in foiling some military operations intended for the self-rule areas and Israel.

He stressed that the Palestinian police's task is to maintain security in the self-rule areas; and to prevent these areas becoming a staging area for any action against any quarter. As for the security situation outside the self-rule areas, it is not the responsibility of the Palestinian police.

Maj.Gen. Nasr Yusuf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, pointed out that the excesses and gaps in the Palestinian police's work, which are criticized by Palestinian citizens, are attributable to the limited resources and the new experiment being practiced by the Palestinian policemen. He acknowledged that there are still shortcomings in the performance, but there is no negligence or laxity.

On the current negotiations with Israel Nasr Yusuf announced that he is against their suspension. He said, "I support the negotiations right to the end, and Israel will adhere to the peace process because it has no other option." He pointed out that the peace process is not just an Israeli or Palestinian responsibility, but an international responsibility as well.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf rejected the Israeli plan on an unscheduled withdrawal from Janin. He said: The important thing in the principle itself is that there be a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal, according to the stipulations of the Declaration of Principles.

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## Algeria

### Government Postpones July Presidential Election

*LD0204191595 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidential elections will not take place in July as scheduled, but during the last part of this year. This was just announced by the Algerian foreign minister.

He added that the dialogue for preparations for the elections is open to all legal parties, but not the Islamic Salvation Front, which is banned.

### FLN Secretary General Meets With President

*LD0204201395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on today's meeting, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri said the following to Farid Belkassam:

[Begin recording] [Belkassam] What were the proposals put forward today by the National Liberation Front, FLN, to the presidency?

[Mehri] We have submitted our proposals to the head of the state after having, of course, had talks with him about the general situation.

The head of state has, however, promised to study them. He also asked us to send them to the rest of political parties. We prefer to make them public once other political parties have received them.

I will, however, make them public at a news conference which I probably hold next Tuesday, God willing, once our political opponents have received them, of course.

However, our stance is not linked, in general, to the political violence in the country. Regardless of the level of violence in the country, we believe that a solution for the country's problems will only be possible once normal, constitutional, and institutionalized life has returned to the country and that a solution can only be found through a meeting between all political opponents and all political forces in the country.

We believe, therefore, that a comprehensive solution to the crisis must be found before contemplating the holding of any elections, be it presidential or legislative. [end recording]

### FFS Makes 'Radical Change,' To Meet Zeroual

*LD0204201095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, was received by President Zeroual this morning. They met to discuss the forthcoming elections and the violence in Algeria.

Another signatory of the Sant'Egidio accords with the Islamic Salvation Front will meet the Algerian head of state next Saturday [8 April]: It is the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. This means a radical change in its position because the FFS had always rejected such a dialogue. Why such a change? This is the question Norredine Boujiane asked Mustapha Bouhadef, the FFS interim secretary general:

[Begin Bouhadef recording] The main motive is the worsening of the political and security situation in the country. Furthermore, the discussion to which we have been invited does not deal with the presidential elections only. The FFS sees as the top priority the fact that we must try to restore civil peace. This is why we have agreed to accept the invitation in these circumstances, while bearing in mind that we are first and foremost signatories of the Sant'Egidio national contract platform, which is our landmark in this discussion, so to speak. The two persons who have expressed their opinions on the national contract are the president of the state and the foreign minister. Both have said that there are positive elements in the accord. [end recording]

### Dembri on Internal Situation, 'Terrorism,' Foreign Ties

*NC0104140495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has affirmed that current events in his country are a passing crisis. He rejected comments by some that there is a civil war.

The Algerian foreign minister says in an interview with the magazine UKTUBAR to be published in its issue for tomorrow, Sunday, that the terrorism crisis has started to recede and that the security situation is improving. He clarified that acts of violence in Algeria have historic roots going as far back as the war of liberation, but a recent addition has been the presence of foreign support and pillars for this terrorism, alongside the spread of the phenomenon of violence and terrorism in some other Arab and Islamic countries under the guise of religion.

Mohamed Salah Dembri said that the situation requires that we rally all Arab and Islamic potentials to analyze and explain the phenomenon of terrorism and agree to confront this phenomenon with group methods. He noted in this regard the recent agreement reached during the meetings of the Islamic Conference in Casablanca.

He noted that there are operations smuggling weapons to terrorist groups inside Algeria and that the majority of these operations pass through the countries of what previously used to be called the communist camp.

There are also networks that act to finalize these operations, not only in Algeria, but extending to other Arab and Islamic countries.

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Mohamed Salah Dembri said that the presidential elections in Algeria will start during the last three months of this year and that the elected president's first mission will be to form the new government, which will hold parliamentary elections followed by municipal elections.

In this way, within two years Algeria will have elected bodies at all levels of government.

He reaffirmed Algeria's determination to implement all these changes and said that President Liamine Zeroual has started a process of national dialogue to define the issues concerning the elections. He pointed out that Algeria rejects any dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], whose activities have been banned due to the conditions it has set. However, the door to dialogue is open with the 73 parties that are active in Algeria to prepare for these elections, to implement the first stage of the national reconciliation program, and to continue the economic reform program, and then adhere to constitutional legitimacy.

Regarding the meetings of the Algerian opposition in Rome, Dembri said that everyone who wishes to internationalize the Algerian crisis, move Algerian discussions abroad, and use this crisis as a means to put pressure on the authorities will find some way to confront us, not only the government, but also the people.

Dembri denied reports that the Algerian authorities have prevented National Liberation Front [FLN] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri from leaving Algeria for Britain. He said that as long as he has a passport, it is his right to practice his rights, which are protected by the constitution. He said he believed that Britain had refused to give him an entry visa.

Regarding the economic situation in Algeria, Mohamed Salah Dembri said that the foreign debts have been rescheduled and the currency's exchange rate is improving. The inflation rate has gone down by 25 percent and hopes are high that it will fall a further 15 percent in coming months. Privatization is still in the early stages. The foreign minister expressed his hopes that a shares and assets stock exchange will be set up during the coming year and the privitization process will start.

On Moroccan-Algerian relations, Dembri said that Morocco is a dear brother of ours and we have many interests in common. We need to start, by exchanging messages and envoys, to remove all the emergency provisions that have created tensions between the two countries. There are also some joint committees proposed between the two countries and some points are being studied for presentation to these committees, which should help resolve this crisis.

On Egyptian-Algerian relations, he said that they are distinguished by understanding and cooperation. He added that the Egyptian-Algerian committee will convene on 10 April under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

He said that during the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] summit in November, a decision will be made on Egypt becoming a member of the UMA. He asserted that his country supports Egypt's joining of the UMA.

He said that during his short visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], he delivered two messages from President Zeroual to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and the UAE president. He also held talks on how to promote bilateral relations.

## Speaker Bensalah on National Council's Tasks

*LD0204195995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The second ordinary term, spring term, of the Transitional National Council opened this morning by the speaker, Abdelkader Bensalah, and attended by Mokdad Sifi, the head of government, and some members of the government.

The council will discuss a host of important issues, namely amending and adding to the draft law on elections, as well as draft laws on real estate, agricultural organization, urban planning, privatization, and international agreements.

In his opening address, Bensalah stressed that amending the elections law was not an easy task, and he said responsibility had to be borne when studying the issue, particularly since this term was going to be more difficult than previous ones.

[Begin Bensalah recording] This term is going to be the most difficult term of the Transitional National Council. The difficulty lies in the fact that it will deal with very sensitive and difficult issues. Views about these will quite often be different. However, I believe that, by the virtue of everyone's awareness, differences will be transformed into a source of enrichment.

Perhaps we will have differences with the government, and may be we will differ among ourselves regarding some issues, but I have great hope that we will be able, due to everyone's understanding, to endorse laws that are more responsive to the reality of the country and to the vast majority of the sons of our people. [end recording]

The speaker of the Transitional National Council said that the political arena had witnessed positive events, which might lead to differences in views, but these differences could be overcome. How?

[Begin Bensalah recording] The political arena has witnessed some kind of revitalization these days and an atmosphere has been created that we will not be wrong to describe as positive.

The qualitative change in the security arena these days has led to fresh and positive results. Furthermore, the political class has responded to the head of state's call; an element that has played a positive role, has given fresh

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impetus to political life, given vitality to the dialogue, and improved the political climate.

We are aware that the intensive political activity witnessed in the political arena these days will necessarily give rise to numerous stances and arguments, which may even be contradictory. However, this political activity, despite all that, is considered as a healthy phenomenon, as long as the differences are about seeking ways of getting the country out of the crisis it is experiencing.

Differences in views and endeavors are not surprising, because we are not living under normal conditions and because opposing interests lead to the emergence of these kinds of differences. The important thing is that everyone should in the end accept that the supreme interest of the homeland must come above anything else. [end recording]

The meeting was adjourned. It will be resumed after the committees finish checking the reports to be debated by the council.

### Envoy to U.S. Says 'Extremists' Spread Propaganda

*LD3103193495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hadj Osmane Bencherif, Algerian ambassador to the United States, has blamed that country for allowing the Algerian Islamic extremists to engage in propaganda in complete freedom in the United States and the West.

At a dinner followed by a debate held at the Washington Institute, the Algerian ambassador gave a briefing on the situation in Algeria and pointed out that terrorism appeared before the elections of December 1991, during the events of Guemar [attack on border post]. He added that rigging and abuses took place during the legislative elections and that as a result the elections lost their credibility.

Mr. Bencherif pointed out that the aim of the fundamentalists' terrorism is to spread terror and fear through attacks against women, girls, journalists, and intellectuals, and thus against the whole of Algerian society, in order to set up an Islamic state.

After condemning these vile acts, the Algerian ambassador pointed out that the Algerian state is working to ensure security, and is anxious to respect regulations and security requirements which will enable a return to the election process to take place, starting with the presidential elections.

Furthermore, Mr. Bencherif stressed that Algerian officials are determined to hold a dialogue with the representatives of the opposition who condemn the use of violence. He then talked about the impact of the Algerian crisis on the security and stability of the region and on the balance in the Mediterranean basin, including its eastern part.

### Army Said To Kill 2,800 Islamists in 2 Weeks

*LD0104122995 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1200 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] If one believes the Algerian newspapers published today, the army is reported to have killed 2,800 fundamentalists in the past two weeks; 200 people are reported to have been arrested. This facilitated the freeing of 100 young women who had been taken hostage by the fundamentalists.

As usual, the Algerian Government has not confirmed this information.

### TV Correspondent Rachida Hammadi Dies From Wounds

*LD0104130595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Our colleague from Algerian television Rachida Hammadi died last night at Kremlin-Bicetre Hospital in Paris, the Algerian Embassy in Paris announced. Rachida Hammadi was the target of an assassination attempt on 20 March as she was accompanied by her sister [Houria Hammadi], who died the same day.

Rachida Hammadi was taken to Kremlin-Bicetre Hospital in Paris last Sunday.

We are from God and to God we return.

### Reportage on Violent Incidents in Country

#### Car Bomb Kills 1, Wounds 2

*LD3103161895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] One person was killed and two others were wounded, one seriously, when a booby-trapped car went off at Tizi Ouzou this morning. The security forces have announced that a Renault-19 booby-trapped car went off in the heart of the town of Tizi Ouzou this morning around 0800 [0700 GMT].

#### Officials Killed in Blida

*LD0304100895 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian daily LE MATIN reports this morning that two officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs were killed in Blida, south of Algiers, on Saturday [1 April]. There were also two bomb attacks in the Algerian capital this weekend.

## Egypt

### Musa: Mubarak's U.S. Visit Designed To Maintain Ties

*NC0104164895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, 1 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has

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described relations between Egypt and the United States as very important to both sides. In a statement he gave today he asserted that Egypt has no confrontation with the United States. It agrees with the United States on the general issues, although it might differ with it on some regional matters.

'Amr Musa clarified that Egypt's objective is to maintain constructive relations with the United States. He pointed out that that does not rule out the emergence of differences between Egypt and the United States over some viewpoints.

On the other hand, Mr. Ahmad Mahir, Egypt's ambassador in the United States, affirmed that President Mubarak wields considerable clout in the U.S. Congress because they know him well and sense that he talks frankly to them.

He added that Congress appreciates President Mubarak a great deal. No other Arab official enjoys this much appreciation from Congress.

He noted that there are 100 new members in Congress who know nothing about foreign policy in the Middle East because they were distant from it. He said these members will be attending President Mubarak's meeting with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee to learn from him the facts on the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

## Consultative Council Discusses Mubarak's U.S. Visit

*NC0204062095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee, which met today under its chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab, stressed the importance of President Husni Mubarak's historic visit to the United States. This is because of the delicate stage the Arab region is experiencing and because of international developments, notably the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Lockerbie crisis, and Egyptian-American relations.

The committee stressed that Egypt's policy is based on maintaining contacts with the other side, which is the modern way in international relations, and on encounters at the highest level.

The committee said that after the end of the two international blocs, a balance of interests becomes necessary, but adherence to national interests comes first, and it is useful to remove contradictions between these interests.

The members agreed in their discussions that no forces influence Egypt's political decision, and no one can divert Egypt from its national interests. They stressed that a strong Egypt is in the interest of the United States and the free world.

## UN Envoy Interviewed on Mubarak's U.S. Visit

*NC0204081095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Munir Zahran, permanent representative at the UN European Headquarters, in Geneva, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, on 2 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Aswad] Ambassador Zahran, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Zahran] Thank you.

[Al-Aswad] Your Excellency, could you at first give us your personal view on President Mubarak's visit to the United States and its importance in light of developments in the Arab region?

[Zahran] This is a very important visit, particularly as it is to the United States, one of the two sponsors of the peace conference. You know, of course, that Egypt was the first to make peace in the Middle East. It was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty following a conference held for this purpose in the United States in 1978. Later, the current peace process began with the Madrid conference followed by bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Another peace treaty was signed, this time between Jordan and Israel. President Clinton witnessed the signing of this treaty. On his way to Jordan, he stopped over in Egypt and held talks with President Mubarak. This was followed by visits by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and finally by Vice President Al Gore. All this was done in the context of the ongoing coordination between Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, the United States, and the other parties concerned with the Middle East crisis to promote the peace operation. God willing, we will attain a just and comprehensive peace that will include all the Arab parties. We saw how Egypt tried to make the recent Palestinian-Israeli talks bear fruit and to implement the Declaration of Principles and the Palestinian-Israeli Cairo Agreement signed in May 1994. Egypt and the United States have close ties, particularly in connection with implementing the economic and social development plan and coordinating over the Egyptian economic reform plan. [passage omitted]

[Al-Aswad] Your Excellency, international relations are currently in a fluid and changing state. In this context, certain views are being proposed about the Middle East's future. They will be discussed during President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. President Clinton. Egypt has a well-known view on this issue which enjoys pan-Arab support. From your perspective as an Egyptian representative at the UN European Headquarters, how do view see this issue?

[Zahran] As I have said, the Middle East is moving toward a comprehensive and just peace that will benefit all the region's countries, including Israel. When this happens, we wish to have cooperation among the

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region's countries to promote economic development and encourage investments for the benefit of the region's citizens. [passage omitted]

## Papers, Radio Examine Mubarak's Washington Visit

### 'Importance' of Visit, Talks Seen

*NC0104081095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasize the importance of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States and the talks he will hold with U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. officials on issues concerning the region.

AL-AHRAM says President Mubarak's trips to Washington are always working visits mainly focusing on supporting peace in the Middle East and boosting economic cooperation and development in Egypt.

The paper adds that President Mubarak's visits confirm the U.S conviction of the importance of Egypt's role in the region's stability. It refers to Clinton's statements praising President Mubarak and describing him as a leader with great courage, resolve, and insight that has enabled him to build his country.

Meanwhile, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the importance of Mubarak's visit to the United States stems from its timing as the Middle East experiences two important events. The first is the efforts being exerted to advance the peace process, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The second event, it adds, is Egypt's stance on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty after Egypt requested the U.S. Administration to intervene in the dispute with Israel on this issue.

The paper says observers' attention is being turned toward the important talks President Mubarak will be holding in the United States, in view of the significance of the topics to be discussed and their priority to the region's nations and the clarity and strength of Egypt's stances. Egypt, the paper adds, expresses a firm Arab stance that has opted for a just and comprehensive peace.

### Talks Said To Testify to Strong Ties

*NC0204145995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "The Egyptian-U.S. Summit and the Work for the Middle East's Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's current visit to Washington is very important. Its timing and the hot and important issues that will dominate the agenda of the Egyptian-U.S. summit signifies many things.

The visit is taking place at a very important time when the world and regional political arenas are rife with issues and subjects requiring exchange of views at the highest level. President Mubarak's meetings in Washington, whether at the summit level with U.S. President Clinton or with senior U.S. political and economic leaders, will provide a good opportunity to explain stands and to discuss all topics within the friendly atmosphere linking the two countries.

We might add to the visit's importance the warm welcome shown by the U.S. State Department and senior U.S. officials. These officials have described President Mubarak's visit as very important and said it comes at a time when Egyptian-U.S. relations are progressing on new bases of partnership between the two countries. It coincides with significant events in the Middle East.

Also contributing to the expected success of the visit are the statements by a senior U.S. State Department official only hours before President Mubarak's arrival in Washington. The U.S. official said President Bill Clinton is looking forward to this visit to renew his ties and contacts with President Mubarak as the leader of a state that has a fundamental and pivotal role in establishing security in the region and in the efforts to make peace in the Middle East and in the world as a whole.

We feel that President Mubarak's visit to Washington, the expected Egyptian-U.S. summit meeting, and the expanded talks to be held in the U.S. capital at all levels during the next four days testify to the strong Egyptian-U.S. relations. They also are clear evidence that this relationship stands on firm bases and will continuously progress to the benefit of both countries and their efforts to build a new Middle East enjoying peace, security, prosperity, and stability.

The great interest shown by the United States in promoting peace in the Middle East in its capacity as the main sponsor of the region's peace process naturally draws intense backing from Egypt. Moreover, the continued efforts by the Clinton Administration to stimulate the peace process and revive the Arab-Israeli negotiations on various tracks automatically complement Egypt's efforts to prompt all parties to return to the negotiating table and to overcome the differences and problems hampering the peace process.

Our goals are the same, our interests are mutual, and our eventual aim is a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. If Egypt's vision of the Middle East's future is based on the principle of equal rights and obligations that should govern coexistence between the region's nations and states, it is logical for Egypt to assert the importance of avoiding an arms race in the Middle East. It is also logical for Egypt to call on all the region's countries without exception to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and agreements banning weapons of mass destruction and to work sincerely to implement President Mubarak's initiative to proclaim the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction.

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The Egyptian-U.S. summit is designed to improve Egyptian-U.S. relations and to promote the partnership for a better future for the Middle Eastern countries by establishing peace, stability, and security for the region's nations.

### Objectives of Visit Viewed

*NC0304064795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH have stressed the importance of the talks President Husni Mubarak will hold during his visit to the United States, because the discussions will deal with every significant bilateral, regional, and international issue.

In an editorial today AL-AHRAM says that President Mubarak's talks with Congress leaders are important, because Congress, according to the U.S. Constitution, plays the role of a full partner to the President in making foreign policy decisions, whether through its legislative function or its authority to approve aid programs and other international agreements.

Egypt's views and analyses concerning issues of interest or contention must therefore reach Congress leaders, the paper says. It adds: It would be wrong to believe that what concerns Egypt in its contacts with Congress is aid alone; Egypt is interested in all regional and international issues.

AL-AHRAM says that since he speaks for Egypt in his contacts with the parties to the U.S. political process, President Husni Mubarak believes that bilateral relations are based on joint interests, even on the issue of aid. He is therefore talking to partners who are equally eager to establish strong relations based on understanding, cooperation, and equality.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace will be at the center of the political part of President Mubarak's talks. The paper notes the assertion by a ranking U.S. State Department official that Egypt is playing a continuous basic and central role to achieve peace and crown the peace process with success.

The paper says in an editorial today that the Mubarak-Clinton meeting will provide a chance to highlight the strength and firmness of bilateral ties.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ends its editorial by stressing that the ultimate objective of President Mubarak's trips is to achieve further development, bring about peace and stability, and establish relations based on clear bases and principles.

### Writer on Mubarak's 'Difficult Mission'

*NC0304084895 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Mar 95 pp 1, 3*

[Article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Mubarak and a Difficult Mission in Washington: Nuclear Weapons and the Region's Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak begins an extremely important visit to the United States on Saturday [1 April].

There are several reasons for this description and for stressing its importance. One is the atmosphere surrounding, preceding, and heralding the visit and the preparations for it, shown in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, where he was eager to make Cairo his first "station" on the tour. It was shown by Vice President Al Gore's visit and the agreements he signed to organize and boost Egyptian-U.S. cooperation and take it into new vast and advanced fields of investment, technology transfer, and basic infrastructure. It was also shown by this "hostile" climate as expressed in articles carried in U.S. newspapers in the past few weeks and months. These tried to create or encourage an atmosphere of hostility and confrontation rather than discuss the "legitimate differences" in views between Cairo and Washington. These articles or press investigations are characterized by bad intentions, distortion of the facts, rumormongering, and the highlighting of false reports or information, or at least the extremely exaggerated presentation of some social and political aspects and phenomena in the Egyptian arena.

The second reason concerns the way the issue of renewing or extending the "Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty" has been handled.

Though both Cairo and Washington were among the first countries that signed it in 1968 and remained faithful to it and to its clauses; though Cairo, like Washington, believes in the "globality of the Treaty," that is, that the Treaty is designed for all countries without exception and they must join it, comply with its clauses, and submit to its conditions for supervision and control; and despite the converging and identical stances, the Egyptian view on the extension or renewal differs from the American one, not over the substance, but over the form or the "criteria" that Washington discusses when it demands renewal or extension and when it demands from the complying "signatories" more "compliance and obeying" while leaving some of the "nuclear" rebels or troublemakers free from any restrictions or commitment.

The third reason is made up of the signals that are sometimes shrouded in vagueness and insinuations and sometimes clear and direct. These are signals about "U.S. aid" and whether to stop or reduce it, about the remaining 20 percent of Egypt's debts that have been written off, about not reaching any agreement with the IMF and the World Bank, and about the refusal of the Paris Club to meet or to open credit facilities and grant loans and so on.

There are many arguments for this, arguments that ban, prevent, condemn, reject, or even impose and demand conditions. The list of arguments is long and available, arguments such as slow privatization, an "artificial" rise in the Egyptian pound's value, a slow liberalization of

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public sector companies, and the retraction of the economic reform program or its intentional derailment.

The list is ready and the charges are many.

There are many arguments for, and testimonies of admiration and praise, if there is acceptance and consent by the IMF; testimonies that praise the soundness of the Egyptian economy and the good progress of the economic reform program are ready to be proclaimed as widely as possible through officials in international agencies, in the press, and inside technical and scientific reports.

The visit is taking place in this atmosphere of complexity and vagueness or in this atmosphere of perplexity, which shows expressions of frank, clear, normal, and natural relations between Cairo and Washington. There is an extensive exchange of visits and there are meetings on every level, from the top to senior officials, reflecting a joint desire to cooperate and exchange views, assessments, analysis, and information, and a joint desire to work together and complement each other's role, which we saw clearly in the peace issue and the efforts to propel it forward on every front and in overcoming the obstacles when it stalled on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. The atmosphere also shows the negative aspects in relations, when it comes to the issue of "nuclear proliferation" and renewing or extending its treaty.

Amid the positive and negative aspects of this atmosphere, President Mubarak begin his visit to and talks in Washington. The Washington talks are not being held only between the Egyptian and U.S. Governments; they are more expanded and comprehensive despite the visit being an official one at the invitation of U.S. President Clinton.

As various U.S. elements contributed to creating and preparing the climate for Mubarak's visit, dealings with these elements should be on the same level and be as clear and frank as possible.

Mubarak will hold talks with Clinton and his senior aides and will meet several of his ministers concerned with cooperation and dealings with Egypt. Mubarak will also meet members of the Senate and House of Representatives and will hold talks with Congress committees to explain his viewpoint and answer questions. The president will also face newspaper, television, and radio representatives.

The U.S. media men have received a great deal of fabricated stories, news, and information, and the facts must be explained and the information of the deliberate confusion and deception refined, because too many facts have been turned upside down. The aggressor, armed to his teeth with a nuclear arsenal, has turned into a meek lamb and the peaceful one has become a ravenous wolf refusing to sign the treaty, inciting others, and being hostile to the Americans.

The president begins his visit to Washington in this very unique and awkward atmosphere. In these circumstances President Mubarak puts forward his view and analysis of the situation and explains his stance, not as an enemy or even an impartial person, but rather as a friend from the position of an equal or partner, never from the position of a subservient.

Egypt speaks in this spirit, the spirit of frankness and clarity, and with the logic of right and justice. So it is not afraid that its views may differ or its interpretations may vary, because discussion and debate are enriched and made fruitful by differences and variance in views. Exchanges and discussions enhance understanding and break the routine.

Mubarak's Egypt has this spirit and argument; it is not concerned that its views on some issues agree or differ with those of a friend, even if this friend is a superpower, such as the United States. The boundaries are clear, rules of dealing and cooperation are fixed, and freedom of will and independence of decisionmaking are among Egyptian policy's principles and philosophy.

Here we might pause without sensitivity at points that some people may use for incitement and offense to poison the atmosphere of the visit or to spoil the relationship between Cairo and Washington.

As for the nuclear issue, the agreement or the treaty, the next conference due to be held in New York on 17 April will undoubtedly end up with either one of the following two options: The treaty will be renewed for the same period and under the same conditions, that is, for another 25 years interspersed with conferences every five years. Or the treaty may be extended indefinitely, as the United States wishes.

Egypt's view differs from that of the United States on this point and each side has its own reasons and justifications.

The United States says quite clearly that the Treaty as it stands now and with its large membership of 171 countries is the best formula mankind has reached to stem nuclear proliferation. It says that abandoning this formula now or in a few years may drive the world toward nuclear chaos without supervision, control, or reconsideration. Thus an indefinite extension is inevitable after the 25-year lifespan of the Treaty has expired.

After eternally extending the Treaty, we can cure the gaps and "faults" it has been suffering since it was established and applied in 1970. We will do this whether with regard to the shortcomings, such as the continuing existence of nuclear countries outside the Treaty that do not submit to any supervision, inspection, or disarmament of military nuclear technology and weapons, or with regard to the shortcomings of the Treaty relating to guarantees given to the non-nuclear countries that accepted joining the Treaty, discarding their weapons,

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accepting the conditions for inspection and supervision, and not attempting to acquire any military nuclear technology.

The countries that have accepted the conditions of the Treaty have no serious guarantee when it comes to confronting a neighbor or enemy or even a friend who owns nuclear weapons and who tries daily to improve the technology of war and its traditional and nuclear tools—a country such as Israel.

Egypt says that in 25 years since the Treaty took effect and 27 years since Egypt signed, it has heard many promises and pledges that were not carried out.

They [not further identified] told Egypt that it should sign the Treaty to prove its good intentions and to push Israel to sign and stop its military program. Egypt signed but Israel took no steps toward signing. It advanced down the nuclear road.

Egypt signed in 1968 and announced that it would not ratify the Treaty unless Israel joined and submitted to the regulations of inspection and supervision.

The Egyptian signature went on without ratification from 1968 until early 1981, when the United States convinced President al- Sadat of the need to make parliament ratify the Treaty and join it. Washington said it endorsed this step. The Egyptian Parliament then ratified the Treaty in 1981. Israel continued its rejectionist policy and its progress down the road of nuclear weapons.

The new American promise to Egypt now is: Encourage Israel by accepting the unlimited extension of the Treaty, the eternal extension of the Treaty. Then we will convince Israel to join. Such talk or promises cannot be accepted. If the atmosphere or conditions in 1981 gave the formal justification to Israel not to join, sign, and submit to the regulations of the Treaty for both supervision and inspection, at a time when Egypt was alone in signing the Treaty, then conditions today are different. There is an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. There is a peace agreement with Jordan. There are dealings and there is acceptance of cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries, some of it public but most of it behind the scenes.

There are also Arab capitals with open doors welcoming the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister. They are travelling around and visiting countries from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

There are international conditions that have changed, alliances that have toppled, empires that have collapsed, and confrontations or mutual hostilities that have ended.

There is a job for Israel within the framework of the international and regional security arrangements imposed by the results of World War II and the postwar conditions, which are diminishing or being eliminated. Or so we think. What is the wisdom behind remaining outside the international order? Why this rejection of the globality of the agreement, which the United States and the big nuclear powers are seeking to generalize? They are also trying to commit everyone to its conditions.

We realize the United States adopts its stance and insists on it while it is very secure.

But what is our fault? The Israeli nuclear installations are a few steps away from Egypt's land and people. They are also a few steps away, even fewer, from the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Syrians. They are only a few kilometers away from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Egyptian and U.S. memories, and Israeli and Soviet memories have not failed yet; they have not forgotten the events of the 1973 war, when the Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal and started liberating the usurped Egyptian land. The "Bar Lev" castles began to collapse as did the fortified centers with their lines and commands. The Egyptian forces advanced and the Israeli forces withdrew. [Former Israeli Defense Minister] Moshe Dayan proposed to his council of ministers and staff commanders to withdraw to the international borders to avoid further losses and a crushing defeat.

Golda Meir refused and contacted Henry Kissinger and later President Nixon for help. Israel then declared a third degree nuclear alert and placed the Israeli tactical nuclear weapons on alert. This made the former Soviet Union declare a state of alert. Rumors have it that the former Soviet Union took this measure at the invitation and insistence of the Americans to deter Israel and prevent it from using the nuclear weapons against Egypt, and later against Syria, when it started to prepare for the counteroffensive after the arrival of the Iraqi forces.

At this time and under these circumstances, neither Egypt nor Syria was the aggressor. Each wanted to liberate its land to wash away its disgrace. Neither Egypt nor Syria had attacked the land or violated the sovereignty of others. Neither has completed the liberation of its soil. But Israel, the aggressor and occupation side, brandished the weapons of destruction and annihilation. Accordingly, how would we feel assured by any promises? How could we accept this incorrect logic of Israel's? And how could we accept this talk, deception, or procrastination by Washington?

By our principled and tenacious stance on the issue of the Treaty and our insistence on rendering it a global issue without any discrimination, we are supporting the reality and the principled U.S. stance. But we reject the U.S. stance based on racism, discrimination, and a policy of double standards.

If the Treaty issue, whether its renewal or indefinite extension, occupies an important part of the Mubarak-Clinton talks and Mubarak's briefing of Congress and media men, there is also the issue of peace, which is also important and serious, particularly since peace is strongly linked with the nuclear issue and military aspect.

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There can be no peace without equal security arrangements that regulate relations among the region's states. There must be security arrangements to control military balance, including conventional and nuclear weapons among the region's parts. There should be progress on every peace track, not on one track alone. The Madrid conference formula and the committees stemming from it did not ignore this part. Hence the formation of the security and armament committee, one of the multilateral committees formed after the Madrid conference.

Regrettably, the meetings of this committee witnessed a stubborn stance by Israel. In as much as it wants to take part in the meetings, Israel does not want to commit itself to any kind of supervision, regulation, or reduction of armament. Israel does not want to be committed to accepting the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons as proposed by President Mubarak. President Mubarak's proposal was accepted by all the committee's sides as well as by countries that are not members of the committee.

We thought the beginning would stumble or be difficult for Israel. We also thought that when there was progress on the peace process and when the Arab sides accepted the peace and its accords and commitments, Israel would ease its rejection and would make its stance flexible.

But the contrary happened. Israel became more intransigent and vicious. This unfair Israeli stance, which is based on discrimination and bias and is also based on U.S. procrastination, cannot achieve an durable peace. This stance cannot assure the region's states. It cannot build bridges of confidence that could be used as a route and course for cooperation, integration, and real development that would transfer the region from backwardness to progress and from war and an arms race to development and production far from hegemony and aggression.

Within this framework President Mubarak will talk with the U.S. Administration, legislative authority, and the public through the written, audio, and video media. The president will brief them on the region's concerns, aspirations, and wishes for a just peace. He will also tell them in Washington that this region refuses the peace that is conditional on a unilateral nuclear weapon or on a military force that entertains covetous schemes in the region and that does not interact or exchange equal benefits with the region's states.

### Policeman Shot Dead in al-Minya

*NC0304053495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—A policeman was martyred in the village of al-'Idarah in Markaz Mallawi in al-Minya, Upper Egypt, when unidentified gunmen fired at him this evening.

This was stated by a security source at the Interior Ministry. The source explained that at about 1630 local time today, unidentified gunmen fired at regular sentry Kamal al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Mawla, of the Mallawi police force, while he was on his way to his house in al-'Idarah village, Markaz Mallawi. He was fatally wounded.

Al-Minya security leaders, investigation officials, and forensic experts went to the scene.

Police services are trying to find the culprits and the weapon used in the attack. The prosecution was informed to open an inquiry.

## Libya

### Reward Offered for Capture of Reagan, Thatcher

*LD0104094695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0130 GMT 1 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Libyan newspaper announced yesterday that it is offering a $4 million reward to anyone who captures former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to go on trial in Libya.

According to AFP, the government newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, published in Tripoli, yesterday carried photographs of Reagan and Thatcher with the caption in bold print: Wanted, $4 million reward.

The United States is offering $4 million for the capture of two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie.

### Report Notes 'Serious Effects' of UN Embargo

*NC0104185095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—A report prepared by the Libyan Embassy in Cairo says that continuing Security Council Resolutions 748 of 1992 and 883 of 1993 on sanctions against Libya will aggravate the suffering of the Libyan people. These sanctions are having extremely serious effects on various aspects of human life, particularly the health sector.

The UN Security Council decided a few days ago to continue the two Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on Libya. In the meantime, the United States is threatening to submit a request for an embargo on Libyan oil to pressure the Libyan leadership to hand over two of its citizens who are accused of complicity in the crash of a Pan American Airlines plane over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988.

The Libyan Embassy report notes that the serious effects of the sanctions, among other things, have prevented 9,000 patients from being sent abroad by air for treatment. The report says that 325 of these patients died as they traveled by land to neighboring countries. In addition, some 150 professors and specialists declined to come to work in Libya and approximately 4,500 medical

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staff members who had signed contracts refused to work in Libya as a result of the difficulties facing them.

The report points out that the maintenance and service of medical, electric, and mechanical equipment have come to a standstill as a result of shortages of necessary spare parts worth $10 million. In addition, certain medications for allergic patients and other emergency equipment have not arrived, causing the deaths of approximately 310 children and more than 150 women during delivery. The sanctions hinder joint programs with the WHO and other medical care programs and endanger international medical cooperation. The report says that as a result of the heavy use of roads, 10,200 accidents have occurred, leaving 1,622 people dead, 4,220 seriously injured or incapacitated, and 3,124 slightly injured. Approximately 9,200 vehicles have been badly damaged.

The report notes that the sanctions on Libya have had adverse effects on agriculture and cattle. Agricultural crops and milk production have decreased, supplies of veterinary supplies and vaccines have stopped, and approximately 90 percent of the cattle and sheep have died. [sentence as received]

The sanctions have prevented Libya from importing the necessary quantities of fruit saplings, because importing them by sea destroys 50 percent of the plants at a loss of $4.3 million. Moreover, the sanctions prevented the import of hybrid vegetable seeds and hot house equipment, causing a 40 percent loss in the production of local saplings at valued at $8 million. They have kept farmers from exporting their fruit crops at a loss of approximately $326 million. The report notes that the expected reduction in crop production in 1994 amounted to 40 percent. Fruit, olive, and almond crops in 1994 fell by 195,000 tons with a value of $410.5 million, vegetables by 412,000 tons worth $618 million, and grain by 173,000 tons worth approximately $61 million. The sanctions also prevent Libya from obtaining modern technology and delay imports of machinery, water purification plants, and irrigation equipment. These factors and shortages of pesticides have lowered production.

In the area of air transport, the Libyan Embassy report says that the Libyan Airlines lost some 200 million Libyan dinars. This is in addition to 52 million dinars lost due to the suspension of land shipments; 1.9 million dinars due to loss of fees from lodging, services, and airport services; and 2.25 million dinars due to the halt of light air transport as a result of the lack of spare parts.

The Public Civil Aviation Organization paid 8 million dinars in wages and salaries for workers while losing 1.5 million dinars due to the halt in incoming air traffic. The Organization also lost 1.65 billion dinars due to the cessation of landing and take off operations at Libyan airports and paid 6.5 million dinars to rent maritime vessels to transport passengers.

The economy and trade sector, especially imports and exports, also suffered as a result of the sanctions. The cost of foreign purchases rose, and agricultural exports dropped because of low production rates, difficulties in exporting products by air, and the spoilage of the products.

Fish exports dropped by 39 percent compared to before the imposition of the air embargo, which directly affects the circulation and arrival of trade and financial documents related to shipments, and bank documents related to exports and imports. This has delayed the delivery of commodities and goods.

The report says that these things increased the cost of purchases and services, which was reflected in an increase in prices in local and foreign markets.

The implementation of the Security Council resolutions that freeze the assets of Libyan financial institutions abroad has prompted foreign banks to ask local banks to cover open credits for importing commodities, goods, and services. This increased the cost of purchases, which has meant higher prices in the local markets. The rise in the insurance rates on imports and exports to and from Libya has increased the cost of exported and imported commodities, which prevents these commodities from being competitive in the market.

The Libyan Embassy report points out that the Libyan industrial sector suffered major losses that amounted to 165 million dinars, that is, more than $500 million. This sector suffered other damages and losses, including the fact that exporters now refrain from dealing with the companies of this sector and a lack of confidence prevails.

This has resulted in the failure to issue credit documents, especially since the implementation of Resolution 883, which froze Libyan assets abroad—the source of financing. The long delay in the arrival of credit documents led to clear delays in the arrival of production requirements.

The report says that the periodic inspection of ships heading toward Libyan ports or sailing from re-export ports delays the arrival of material needed for production and raises insurance rates.

In addition to the above, the continuation of the sanctions has made foreign partners reluctant to start developing factories and local production lines. It also has made national companies lose their rights with foreign companies and prevented the import of the equipment needed to set up a Libyan aluminum company using natural gas as the main source of energy.

## UN Envoy Criticizes U.S. 'Animosity'

*LD3103193895 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Al Rabia [March] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations has expressed his astonishment for America's antagonistic position regarding the Libyan Arab people. In a press conference held in New York yesterday [30 March], he

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said we know that America maintains animosity towards the Great Jamahiriyah but we did not believe that America's hatred against us will reach that extent.

He added that America had been blinded by latent hatred against the Libyan Arab people to the extent of sacrificing the interests of the families of the victims of the so-called Lockerbie as long as that rejection incurs damage on the Libyan Arab people.

The permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations said that the whole world is aware that new evidence had emerged to vindicate the suspected Libyan nationals of that accusation. The whole world is demanding the lifting of the unfair sanctions imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah through the Security Council which inflicted huge losses in life and possession the sanctions have even inflicted losses on all neighbouring countries.

He added that the whole world, being represented by the Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, the Non-Alignment Movement and most state members of the Security Council, are supporting Libya in its position towards the so-called Lockerbie case. Accordingly it has become vital to accept the recent proposal of the Arab League regarding the solution of the case.

He said that America's disregard for all that reflects the extent of intransigence of the U.S. Administration against Arabs and Muslims. [sentence as received] It also confirms that the accusations leveled against the suspected Libyan nationals is a false accusation produced by the fear of America and Britain from Libya's stirring one of the cases of aggression against it by these countries, which Libya [word indistinct] as Locker-a. Libya is demanding the surrender of those responsible for that crime to stand before the Libyan judiciary. Therefore there was no other way except by falsely levelling the accusation of Locker-b on the Libyan nationals.

He said if the matter is like that, then let us sit down at the negotiation table and let each party surrender the accused in both cases, i.e. Locker-a and Locker-b. Otherwise how can we interpret American and British disregard for the proposal of the Arab League to resolve this case. Why do they force Libya to implement the resolutions of the so-called Security Council to the letter, whereas they show tolerance and clemency for the Israeli enemy which is exempted from the implementation of these resolutions, through America's strong and clear intervention. He confirmed that America was the first state to violate the resolutions of the council [word indistinct] respect of Jerusalem, as it is acting seriously to transfer its embassy from occupied Palestine to Jerusalem.

The permanent delegate confirmed that the double standard policy practiced by the so-called Security Council undermine the credibility of the Council, accordingly small nations trust in the United nations is rather limited.

He said that the United States is actively seeking to transform the United Nations into an American organization. It started manipulating the organization to turn it into an instrument for its foreign policy.

He said that this is the reason which had [words indistinct] by the leader of the revolution in his major speech in the 25th. anniversary of the eviction of British bases and troops from the Libyan territory. [passage indistinct]

He said we are very keen [word indistinct] international [word indistinct], but it has to be of one standard. He said we are keen to solve all problems by peaceful means. We are keen to eliminate all the sources of tension throughout the whole world. Therefore we are keen on denouncing international terrorism which has to be abolished in collaboration with all U.N. state members. At the same time we are keen on our independence and our sovereignty and we will not yield for [word indistinct] pressure or any extortion whatever its source.

He said that we are a nation that seeks justice and logic. We reject intransigence, injustice, oppression and extortion. We are still hoping that the rule of logic will prevail and that everybody will seek a fair and just solution for the case, like ourselves .

He said we do not bear any animosity or hatred for the American people. America should follow our example. Natural relations between states are those relations that benefit the nations and maintain their interests. That will not be the case through the fabrication of problems or the attempts of threats with aggression and the practice of harassment.

### Saudi Arabia Urged To Facilitate Hajj Flights

*LD0104181195 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity met this morning with the charge d'affaires at the Saudi Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah and informed him of the Libyan Arab people's decision to perform the duty of pilgrimage for this year by means of Libyan Arab Airlines flights directly from the Great Jamahiriyah's airports to Jeddah airport in Saudi Arabia.

He conveyed to the Saudi official a memorandum containing timetables, schedules, and data on the flights that have been decided. It also calls on the Saudi authorities to facilitate the arrivals and departures of the Libyan Arab planes.

### Egypt Informed of Intended Use of Airspace

*LD0104183995 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Tayr 1 [1 April], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity this morning met with Ahmad Muhammad Wahdan, the head of the

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Egyptian Arab Relations bureau to the Great Jamahiriyah, delivering to him an official memorandum on the Libyan Arab people's decision to go on pilgrimage this on Libyan Arab airliners directly from the airports of the Great Jamahiriyah to the airport of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia via the Egyptian national airspace.

## Sudan

### Authorities Seize Opposition Member's Property

*MM3103154495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 95 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Authorities Confiscate Ummah Party Secretary General's House"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Sudanese authorities yesterday confiscated the property of Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Ummah Party, ordering his family to leave their house, which is situated in al-Riyad district, south of Khartoum.

A statement issued by the Ummah Party abroad pointed out that security authorities "stormed Nur-al-Da'im's house at dawn yesterday, confiscating all its contents and evicting members of his family with just the clothes they were wearing when the operation took place."

AL-HAYAH has learned that the police also confiscated three cars owned by the Sudanese oppositionist, who held ministerial posts in the sixties and during the recent democratic era in Sudan. Nur-al-Da'im has for more than two years been performing extensive activities outside Sudan, focusing on exerting pressure on the Sudanese Government and working to restore democracy. In Asmera recently Nur-al-Da'im signed with both Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, and Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, an agreement which stipulates the need to step up the pressure on President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime. The Ummah Party's statement, which is signed by Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan, official in charge of information in the party, and a copy of which AL-HAYAH received yesterday, said that "the inhumane actions carried out by the Sudanese regime's security elements and which have nothing to do with the Sudanese people reflect the regime's nature, spiteful mentality, and the uncivilized behavior of the ruling clique in Khartoum."

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## Bahrain

### Police Kill 1 During Arrest of Opposition Cleric

*NC0104172695 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 1 (AFP)—Bahraini police shot dead one protester and wounded several others when they went to arrest a leading Shiite Moslem cleric in a dawn raid Saturday [1 April], the cleric's son and opposition groups said.

Security forces surrounded the house of Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir al-Jamri, 55, in the village of Bani Jamrah, five kilometres (three miles) west of the capital Manama, and "opened fire on people who tried to prevent them arresting the cleric," his son Shaykh Mansur al-Jamri told AFP by telephone.

Police shot dead Muhammad Ja'far Yusuf Tuwayq, 27, and seriously wounded his wife Kawthar 'Umran in the raid, Shaykh Mansur said.

"Large numbers of police surrounded several houses before arresting Shaykh al-Jamri," Shaykh Mansur told AFP.

"The police also arrested several other people in Bani Jamrah who were trying to stop the arrest."

Two exiled opposition groups—the Movement for the Liberation of Bahrain and the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain—also reported the death of Yusuf Tuwayq and said "several people were wounded in Bani Jamrah, where armoured vehicles were deployed."

In statements received by AFP here, the opposition said Shaykh al-Jamri and all the members of his family were "arrested and taken to an unknown destination."

The shaykh was one of the leading signatories of a petition in November calling for the restoration of parliament, suspended in 1975. He was an MP from 1973-1975.

A senior Bahraini official said the shaykh had been placed under house arrest, denying that he was being held by police.

"The cleric is at home, under surveillance. He is not allowed to leave or receive visitors," the official said, adding that security forces were "in control of the situation, despite some trouble in limited areas."

A diplomat told AFP "distant gunfire and helicopters" were heard in Bahrain in the morning.

The cleric's son said Shaykh Hasan Khalil Sultan, imam of a mosque in Hamad Town, southern Bahrain, had also been detained Saturday.

Another leading Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, was arrested in early December after signing the petition calling for the return of parliament.

His arrest sparked the worst violence seen in Bahrain since it gained independence from Britain in 1971, which the opposition in exile said killed eight people. Bahrain's Sunni Moslem-led authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Shaykh Salman was expelled from Bahrain and is now in London where he has requested political asylum.

On Thursday the Bahraini authorities reported a petrol bomb attack on a police car in which one person was killed and two were injured.

According to the human rights group Amnesty International, at least seven civilians were killed in the December unrest and security forces made arbitrary arrests, torturing a number of detainees during interrogation.

Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al-Khalifah blamed "foreign elements" for inciting the unrest.

Diplomats in the Gulf said the troubles were aggravated by unemployment, which has risen in Bahrain in recent years, especially hitting the Shiite Moslem community which forms around 60 percent of the population of 540,000.

### Official Sources Claim 'Security Situation Stable'

*MM0304115395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Official Sources Stress Security Situation Stable; Bahraini Cleric Placed Under House Arrest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources in Bahrain have denied that 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, a cleric, has been arrested and taken from his house. The sources said that al-Jamri is under house arrest and is not allowed to leave his house or receive visitors.

The sources were replying to reports by news agencies claiming that al-Jamri was arrested at dawn and taken to an unknown destination.

It is not known why al-Jamri has been put under house arrest. But Bahraini security services have recently taken large-scale measures following the subversive operations carried out against some schools and the actions committed by unknown elements against security personnel, most recently the security man killed in his car after unidentified elements hurled a petrol bomb at a police patrol.

The Bahraini sources stressed that the security situation is stable despite the recent isolated incidents. The sources strongly condemned the targeting of public installations and security personnel.

As is known, al-Jamri received his education in the Iraqi city of al-Najaf in the sixties and returned to Bahrain in 1973.

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### Interior Ministry Says 'Saboteurs' Apprehended

*JN0204092795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 2 Apr (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Ministry of the Interior has said that the security forces have arrested the suspects who committed the ugly incident in the Sitrah area on Thursday [30 March] afternoon. These suspects are the saboteurs who threw a molotov cocktail at a police patrol on duty in that area, killing policeman Duryar Muhammad, 50, injuring two other policemen, and completely burning the police car.

In a statement issued today, the source said that security sources have also arrested suspects who set fire to a video shop located in the Jidd Hafs area on 25 March 1995. In that incident Muhammad Ghuwayr, 25, who was working at the shop, died after sustaining burns; his body was found charred.

The source added that security forces also apprehended suspects who set ablaze a branch of the Bahrain Islamic Bank located in al-Hashimi Complex in the Jidd Hafs area on 27 March 1995. All of the bank's contents were damaged in that attack. The suspects confessed to their crime.

Commenting on the apprehension of these suspects, the Interior Ministry's responsible source said that following investigations and the criminals' confessions, it became clear that these saboteurs sought to spread anarchy and intimidate people through attacking policemen, killing innocent people, and destroying facilities. They also sought to undermine law and order in the country, the source added.

Concluding, the source said the Ministry of the Interior, which commends the great efforts of the security forces in apprehending these saboteurs, would like to reassure citizens and residents that it is determined to safeguard the safety and security of the country and its people. The ministry would like also to restate that it will remain alert for such saboteurs and that it will thwart their criminal actions and eliminate those who instigate and plan them, the source added.

### Amir Talks With 'Prominent Figures' on Unrest

*NC0304164495 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 3 (AFP)—Bahrain's ruling amir has held talks with 20 prominent figures in a bid to end the violence which has shaken the Gulf emirate since December, officials and the opposition said Monday [3 April].

It was the first such meeting since clashes between protesters and security forces erupted in early December after the arrest of a leading Shiite Moslem cleric who had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

The official agency GNA said that the leaders met Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah late Sunday to express their "concern at the acts of violence and sabotage against public and private property."

They assured him "they would make every effort" to restore calm and ensure "the country's stability under his wise leadership."

But members of the exiled Bahrain Freedom Movement gave a different account, saying that "about 20 leading Shiites were summoned by the amir to ask them to end the unrest."

Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah asked them to use their influence to end the troubles and threatened a tougher clampdown.

None of those who attended the meeting could be contacted on Monday.

The amir called the meeting the day after the arrest of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, another Shiite cleric who signed a petition for the restoration of parliament in November.

The cleric's son, Shaykh Mansur al-Jamri, said the prime minister told Sunday's meeting that he "did not want to hear anything about the petition" for democratic reform.

"First we must end the unrest and then we will see," Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said, according to Shaykh Mansur who said he was quoting participants.

Bahrain's Sunni-led government is beginning to break its earlier silence on the unrest while insisting it is in control of the situation.

The minister of public works, Majid Jawad al-Jishi, has acknowledged sabotage of electrical installations with damage amounting to 900,000 dinars (2.38 million dollars), the GNA news agency said Monday.

The violence has left at least 12 people dead, according to opposition groups, though the government has announced only four deaths including three policemen.

### Amir Meets With Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

*LD0304122595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his arrival in Manama today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, conferred with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

Radio Bahrain has reported that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir gave his highness the Bahraini amir a message from his highness the amir of Kuwait concerning the warm brotherly relations between the two countries. The message also concerned topics of mutual

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interest within the framework of consultations and coordination between Bahrain and Kuwait for the good of and in the interest of the two sisterly peoples.

Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and Ambassador 'Abdallah Bisharah are accompanying Shaykh Sabah on this visit.

### Ministry on Diplomatic Relations With Vietnam

*LD0104132195 Riyadh SPA in English 1244 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 1, SPA—Bahrain and Vietnam have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between them effective today, according to a statement released by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry. The statement said this development aims at boosting bilateral cooperation in the various spheres.

## Saudi Arabia

### CDLR Communique on 'Successful' Buraydah Sit-In

*MS0304090395 London CDLR MONITOR in English 31 Mar 95*

[Communique No. 30 by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR); date not given—received by fax 31 March 95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

#### Second Sit-In in Buraydah Successful

Despite rigorous security measures and numerous attempts to intimidate the public and in spite of the conspiracy of fabricating communique's to confuse the masses, the CDLR call for the second sit-in has been very successful. More than five thousand citizens gathered at Adh-Dhiyab Mosque in Buraydah and observed a peaceful sit-in for one hour after which they dispersed calmly without confrontation with the security forces. A large number of women participated in the sit-in.

The regime adopted a series of measures in a bid to foil the demonstration but to no avail. Car parking around the mosque was banned one night prior to the sit-in. In the meantime an estimated 60 cars belonging to the Mabahith (intelligence) were deployed around the mosque. Each car had a number of intelligence agents in civilian clothing on board. In addition, a large number of police cars patrolled the area around the mosque and about 200 unmarked cars each carrying four uniformed officers were on patrol. Six civilian clothed security men and nine uniformed officers armed with machine guns were deployed at each entrance to the mosque. Inside the mosque, seven civilian clothed agents equipped with walkie-talkies and pistols were deployed at each corner. Our sources spotted several personnel carriers and truck loaded with anti-riot police in an area a little distant from the mosque around the Governorate offices and the police headquarters. The force was equipped with water cannons, shields and electric bars. At the same time, Buraydah's telephone communications were placed under electronic surveillance.

Yesterday, the Authorities attempted to confuse the public by issuing a fabricated communique in the name of the CDLR alleging the cancellation of the sit-in. However, the CDLR promptly issued a communique exposing the government's fabrication.

The CDLR, which will soon disclose its next step, has been encouraged by today's success and will proceed with the organisation of further peaceful demonstrations. London, Friday 31 March 1995

### Government Approves GCC Security Agreement

*LD0204102895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0944 GMT 2 Mar 95*

[Statement by "an official source" at the Interior Ministry; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 27 December 1994, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] interior ministers from the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed a draft GCC security agreement determining the foundations of security cooperation among the member states.

With a view to completing measures for its endorsement, this document was submitted for discussion to the Consultative Council, which approved it in Resolution No. 34/29/15 dated 26 March.

The document was then submitted to the Council of Ministers, which adopted it in Resolution 127 dated 27 March. On the same day, the document was also endorsed by the custodian of the two holy mosques in royal Decree M/13.

The Kingdom will deposit this agreement with the general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the next few days, in accordance with Article 42 of the said agreement.

The Interior Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is looking forward to the future with great satisfaction and hopes that the signing of this agreement will strengthen the foundations of the overall security edifice for all the GCC states and their nationals.

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### Settlement of Jailed Americans Issue Predicted

*NC0104201395 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 1 (AFP)—An Iraqi MP said Saturday [1 April] he expected the issue of two Americans jailed in Baghdad for "illegal entry" into the country would be resolved soon.

"We are heading towards a settlement of the affair," Hasib 'Arif, rapporteur of the Iraqi parliament's foreign affairs committee, told AFP.

'Arif, who said he was speaking on an individual basis, declined to give further details on the conditions or date for any settlement planned by Baghdad.

The MP was no more specific when he spoke to a group of reporters earlier Saturday. "The affair of the two Americans will be settled in coming days," he said.

"It will not provoke a crisis between Iraq and the United States or in Baghdad's relations with other states," 'Arif said.

William Barloon, 39, and David Daliberti, 41, were arrested by Iraqi police on March 13 after straying across the border from Kuwait. They were sentenced to eight years in jail on March 25.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday that the pair, who worked for U.S. defence contractors in Kuwait, had "strayed innocently" into Iraq and their sentences were "totally unjustified."

He said Washington was pursuing a range of diplomatic channels to secure the Americans' freedom.

The United States, which broke off diplomatic ties with Iraq in the January-February 1991 Gulf War, has asked other countries to help secure their release.

### 'Legitimate Actions' Against 2 Americans Defended

*JN0204125795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has described the U.S.-British-Argentine draft resolution on Iraqi oil exports as a bucket coming from the same brackish basin of Resolutions 706 and 712.

In its "Free Opinions" column, the paper says that in their international dealing, successive U.S. Administrations have pursued guileful and tricky approaches and played with words. The paper recalls former Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev's response to a U.S. arms control plan in 1964 after a better plan was rejected by Moscow.

Then, during talks with Moscow, Washington submitted a proposal to ease the cold war and control arms between the Eastern and Western blocs in a manner that would have made the scale tip in favor of the United States and NATO. However, the Soviet Union rejected it. When Khrushchev was studied the new formula proposed by the United States, he commented: It is the same dish of soup, but a lot of water has been added to it.

AL-QADISIYAH denounced the U.S. officials' strained reactions to Iraq's legitimate actions to punish the two Americans who infiltrated its national soil through the border checkpoint with Kuwait last month.

The paper notes a contradiction between this stand by the U.S. authorities and their measures against those who try to enter U.S. territory illegally. The paper says that U.S. television stations occasionally show video clips of Mexican citizens being apprehended after attempting to cross the border without permission. The paper says that such persons are shown being thrown on the ground with their hands tied behind their backs. Afterward, they are held in custody and interrogated before a sentence is issued against them for that crime.

The paper asks: What is the difference between the two measures as long as each country is applying its laws.

### Parliament Reportedly Rejects U.S. Draft Resolution

*JN0104103295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi parliament today unanimously rejected a U.S. draft resolution which would allow Baghdad to export a limited amount of oil worth $2 billion over a three-month period. Baghdad considers this draft resolution to be a U.S. maneuver to prolong international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

### 'Aziz Leaves for 'Surprise' UN Visit

*JN0304111495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Baghdad for New York at noon today. Asked by INA why he is paying this surprise visit and whether the visit is to deal with the U.S. draft resolution, which was rejected by Iraq, the deputy prime minister said: We rejected the U.S. draft and will continue to reject it. There is no change in this stand. We explained why and said that this draft is biased and does not resolve any of our problems. It threatens Iraq's national unity and obstructs the implementation of Paragraph 22. If the UN Security Council approves this resolution, we will not implement it.

'Aziz continued: As for our visit to New York, it is for two reasons. First, we want to follow up on the report that will be submitted by Ekeus on 10 April. We will explain our position on that issue to the Security Council members. Second, we want to explain our position on the U.S. draft resolution directly and in detail to the UN Security Council, and we will seek to thwart it. It should

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be noted that this draft has come under strong criticism by a significant number of Council members.

In response to another INA question on whether Iraq, as the Americans and their allies claim, rejects the idea of selling a limited quantity of oil to purchase humanitarian needs, the deputy prime minister said: The idea of selling a limited amount of oil to secure basic humanitarian needs for the Iraqi people, especially food and medicine, is originally an Iraqi proposal submitted in 1991. However, the two resolutions issued under this cover—Resolutions 706 and 712—were distorted and do not achieve this objective. Rather, they achieve colonialist objectives seeking to control the Iraqi oil wealth, divide Iraq, and dominate its destiny. Therefore, we have firmly rejected those two resolutions and the latest U.S. draft resolution, which does not differ from the two above-mentioned resolutions.

Asked by INA how Iraq would react if positive amendments were introduced into the U.S. draft resolution, the deputy prime minister said: This is a hypothetical question. If substantive, positive amendments were introduced into the draft, then we would be looking at another draft. Then, we would look at the new draft and decide what position to adopt in light of the basic constants in our position. Those constants state that any arrangement of this kind must not obstruct or delay the full implementation of Paragraph 22 and must not include any interfering conditions that harm Iraq's sovereignty and national unity or constitute future shackles.

### Butrus-Ghali's Support for U.S. Draft Assailed

*JN0304123495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL- THAWRAH has said that the statements by the UN secretary general and the British UN permanent representative on the suspicious U.S. draft resolution are nothing but obvious, desperate attempts to market that conspiratorial draft resolution.

The paper, which reflects the views for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: If might be part of David Hannay's job as the British Government's representative at the UN Security Council to promote of the draft, but it is certainly astonishing to hear Butrus-Ghali promoting it.

The paper says: We would not have been astonished had U.S. UN Ambassador Albright told reporters: "Iraq has no choice but to accept the partial solution contained in the U.S. draft resolution." But when such a thing is said by the UN secretary general, this means that Dr. Butrus-Ghali has gone beyond his job and jurisdiction, showing a glaring bias toward the U.S. draft.

The paper adds: If Hannay's statements reflect the extent of British subservience to the United States, then it is important and urgent that this Hannay should understand that the Iraqi people will not accept anyone imposing his will on them or to underestimate their intelligence and political, historic awareness.

The paper stresses that the Iraqi people are fully aware that the U.S. Administration and the British Government are responsible for their suffering. They know that those two governments insist on prolonging the blockade imposed on them and persist in committing the ugliest genocide against them.

The paper adds: The Iraqi people understand that the problem of Mr. Hannay and other British officials lies in the fact that they are still living in the past and arguing with worn-out logic.

Concluding, the paper says: Whatever the affair of the UN secretary general and the British permanent UN Security Council representative as they anxiously work to market an old, unsalable U.S. merchandise, the great Iraqi people are backing their historic leadership and its decisive decision to reject the malicious decision and every draft that compromises their sovereignty and prolongs the blockade imposed on them.

### Assembly Statement Urges World To Lift Sanctions

*JN0304135595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly has urged parliamentarians throughout the world to support the Iraqi people's demand to lift the blockade imposed on them and to end the suffering of Iraq children, the elderly, and women, which has continued for over four years.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly urged members and heads of parliaments throughout the world to speak out and demand an end to this suffering by lifting the unjust blockade against Iraq through the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. The statement urges them to perform their humanitarian duty by urging their governments to adopt a clear stand on the U.S. attempts to annihilate the Iraqi people through maintaining the blockade without any legal or moral justification.

The assembly described the new U.S. draft resolution as a maneuver to deceive the world public and an attempt to circumvent the stands of some UN Security Council member states before the council's next periodic review session. The statement says the draft proves the inhuman U.S. policy of prolonging the blockade. [passage omitted]

### Further Denial of Biological Weapons Issued

*JN3003210595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of his meeting in Paris today with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass

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destruction, voiced the UN Security Council members' concern about Iraq's biological weapons program. Ekeus said he did not receive sufficient information in this regard from the Baghdad authorities.

It can be deduced from Ekeus' statements that his forthcoming report to the UN Security Council will include this position, and, therefore, that the UN Security Council is unlikely to lift the embargo imposed against Iraq since 1990.

The Iraqi culture and information minister, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, shed some light on this issue, stressing that his country will furnish the United Nations with the necessary information on its biological program before 10 April. Hammadi noted that Ekeus' demands are impossible and said they are intended to delay lifting the embargo.

The Iraqi minister said: Ekeus has posed certain questions about the Iraqi biological program. He demanded to know what happened to 17,000 tonnes of material imported by Iraq, within a period of three days. We told him that this was impossible within the set time frame. We promised him that we will prepare the answers and provide them before 10 April.

The Iraqi minister wondered: Why did Ekeus raise such questions on the biological weapons file, which was closed in 1992?

Hammadi stressed that Iraq had chemical weapons, and that it had a biological program, but had no biological weapons.

The Iraqi minister added: Let us suppose the materials we imported were used to produce biological weapons. Do they not need missiles to deliver them? Where are these missiles? Ekeus knows that the missile file is now closed; he has a system for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons.

## Defecting Nuclear Scientist Disappears in Greece

*LD0204111495 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 2 Apr 95 p 16*

[By Jon Swain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Defecting Iraqi nuclear scientist has vanished in Greece while trying to reveal details of the secret nuclear weapons programme that President Saddam Husayn has been hiding from United Nations inspectors since the end of the Gulf war. His wife is convinced he has been killed.

Security sources in the Middle East said last week that the disappearance of the scientist, identified as Khidir 'abd-al-'Abbas Hamza, bore the hallmarks of a kidnapping and assassination by a unit of the Mukhabarat, Iraq's intelligence service.

They believe he was abducted by a unit under orders from Farouz Hajazi, a Mukhabarat operative seen in Turkey and Athens shortly before Khidir disappeared. There is also evidence of complicity by the Iraqi embassy in Athens.

Issam Saud Khalil, the Iraqi ambassador who doubles as military attache, was called to Baghdad immediately after Khidir's disappearance. Security sources believe he was ordered home to give a full report of the operation and to keep him out of the way of revenge attacks.

One month after Khidir was plucked off a street in the Greek capital, where he had been hiding for weeks under an alias, his wife and his Iraqi contacts in exile confirmed that they believed he had been murdered.

His wife said that two men had been following him in the days before his disappearance on the night of February 27. She believes they abducted him as he tried to make a phone call to The Sunday Times.

No witnesses have been found but his wife found a single slipper belonging to her husband on the pavement near the telephone booth 100 yards from the flat in the Glyfada district of Athens. He may have been bundled into a car.

If the fears about Khidir are correct, he is the second defecting employee of the Iraqi nuclear programme known to have been murdered by the Mukhabarat. In December 1992, Mo'ayad Hassan Naji alJanabi, a nuclear engineer seeking asylum in Britain or America, was shot dead in Amman, Jordan.

Until he fled from Iraq last August, Khidir had been working as a counsellor in the presidential centre for nuclear energy under General Husayn Kamil Hassan, Saddam's son-in-law. He is believed to have brought out with him 50 pages of secret documents revealing the frightening scale of Iraq" bomb-making programme.

Last month, Khidir was briefly in touch with The Sunday Times by telephone from Athens, with a view to the newspaper publishing details of Saddam's secret weapons programme. He faxed two sample pages of documents, and a summary of their contents; but he hid all clues to his whereabouts and refused a direct meeting with a reporter.

The documents, dated May last year, suggest that in defiance of the UN security council resolution requiring Iraq to agree not to develop nuclear weaponry, work on the clandestine programme continues. Two days after faxing the documents, he was due to call again to discuss them. Instead, there was a frantic telephone call the next day from a woman introducing herself as his wife. She said he had been on his way to telephone The Sunday Times when he vanished. "They have killed him and they are going to kill me now as well," she said.

"I knew that we were being followed. I had felt it for several days. I told him so. I kept warning him that there were two people watching us out there. I saw one of them, tall with a moustache, several times. I said to

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Samir: Look back at these people. They are following us. But he did not listen and said I panicked too easily."

The Sunday Times at once advised her to report her husband's disappearance to the Greek police. It is understood that the police were informed of the kidnapping but were reluctant to become involved in an investigation of an Iraqi political murder. So far their inquiries have made little headway beyond the assumption that he was kidnapped and killed and no arrests are expected.

A significant Iraqi expatriate community lives in Athens, and the Glyfada district in particular has become a hotbed of Iraqi political intrigue.

Khidir's wife contacted The Sunday Times again by telephone from hiding two days ago to confirm her husband's death. She said her husband had wanted the world to know about Saddam's clandestine nuclear ambitions. "He said he could prove that Saddam was making the bomb. He said if the world does not stop him now it will be too late. Nobody will be able to stop him in a few years because he will have the bomb." She said, however, that she had burned his documents.

She described the last time that she had seen her husband alive. "It was about 11 at night. He was still dressed but in his slippers. He said he would go down to the street because he had promised to call The Sunday Times. I said, 'Wait for me'. I will come with you.' He said: 'No, no, no, I will be back in five minutes.'

"After a quarter of an hour I could not wait any more. I had a bad feeling, and when I went down I saw his slipper in the street. I understood at once that they had got him." Since the end of the Gulf War, thousands of Iraqis have fled abroad because living conditions were intolerable as a result of sanctions or fear of persecution by Saddam's regime. Khidir followed the classic escape route.

Last August, he left his home in the Harithiyah district near Celebration Square in Baghdad, behind the home of 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, the former minister of defence. He reached the Kurdish- controlled area of northern Iraq on August 18, and in Salahaddin, sources say, he met General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the top Iraqi defector who recently attempted a military rebellion against Saddam. On October 3, he crossed into Turkey. He stayed in Istanbul for one week and later moved to Athens using false papers.

Friends in the Greek capital sheltered him and his wife. The fear of discovery made the couple constantly change hiding places. In February, they were living in one room of a flat in Glyfada, near the airport, seldom emerging into the street except to buy food.

The timing of Khidir's disappearance seems to have been critical. The Iraqi regime is desperate for sanctions to be lifted. The security council is shortly to review the sanctions regime when Rolf Ekeus, the UN arms inspector, will report on his missions to Baghdad to evaluate progress towards Iraqi disarmament. Any documentary evidence of its continuing nuclear arms programme would be damning.

Dr David Kay, the former chief of the UN inspection team in Iraq,said last week that at the time of the Gulf war Iraq was 12 to 18 months away from a crude nuclear device, and 36 months away from having enough experience to mount a warhead on a Scud missile.

Since then the UN has destroyed Iraq's nuclear installations. What the documents seem to reveal, however, is that the nuclear effort continues, including a weapons design group and a materials research department. According to the documents, orders were given to hide materials in the nuclear project before a visit by UN inspectors last year.

### Turkish Troops Said Using 'Human Shields'

*NC3003175595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a well-informed source, the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY said today that the invading Turkish troops in Kurdistan have arrested a large number of young people and have used women and children as human shields during their military operations.

Citing the same source, the paper adds that the Turkish soldiers stole the women's jewelry.

### Kurdish Liberation Army Rebukes Turkish 'Invasion'

*NC3103161095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued on 27 March, the Kurdish Liberation Army general command [al-qiyadah al-'ammah li Jaysh al-tahrir al-kurdistani] condemned the Turkish invasion of the Kurdistan region. It also condemned the Unified Kurdistan Democratic Party's collusion with the Turkish Army and its participation in the fighting alongside the Turkish forces.

Meanwhile, the Kurdish Workers Party Central Committee has issued a statement threatening all collaborators with the Turkish Army.

### PUK Daily Says Turkish Officer Shot Dead

*NC3103161495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] KURDISTAN NWAY, the daily mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], today cites a knowledgeable source in Zakho saying that a young gunman shot and killed a Turkish officer as he was shopping in the town's market on 25 March. Members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, tasked with guarding Turkish Army personnel, hunted down the gunman. He refused to surrender and detonated a hand grenade. He was martyred in the blast.

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## Turkish Troops Abandon Mountain Positions as PKK Vanish

*NC0204122695 Paris AFP in English 1119 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[By Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chuarkuk, Iraq, April 2 (AFP) - Ten thousand Turkish troops who flooded into this remote mountain region almost two weeks ago appear to have abandoned their positions after finding little trace of Kurdish rebels, an AFP correspondent said.

No Turkish soldiers could be spotted Saturday [1 April] on peaks and hills surrounding the Chuarkuk area in the far eastern corner of northern Iraq where the 10,000 troops were reportedly positioned along with two helicopters.

Villagers said eight Turkish helicopters had Friday flown over the area which had been a stronghold of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) since the late 1980s.

Empty cans and packets of Turkish biscuits strewn along a steep path winding east of the village of Lelkan on the southern slopes of the mountain chain which guards the entrance to Chuarkuk bore testimony to the troops who had passed by.

Villagers said the troops arrived on March 21, the day after Turkey launched its massive military operation in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq to crush PKK rebels who have waged a bloody battle against Turkey since 1984 for a separate Kurdish homeland.

They walked across the snowy peaks of the Turkish border mountain town of Hakkari or were flown in by helicopters.

"They have positions on all the peaks along the Turkish border up to the Iranian border," Salam Khan said. He is the son of Karim Khan, the head of the powerful Iraqi Kurdish Bradost tribe which runs the scattered villages in the area.

But on Saturday only the wind could be heard howling round the mountains of the Chuarkuk region bordered by Turkey in the northwest and Iran in the northeast.

Two Iraqi Kurds who have lived in the area a long time said the troops must have left.

"Otherwise they would have shot at us to stop us, because we are easily seen from here," one said as he rounded the pass to behind the Deli mountain with an AFP correspondent.

But frightened villagers in Lelkan refused to believe the troops had gone, saying they had been forbidden to travel round the mountain to its northern slopes.

"Obviously the many helicopters we saw Friday didn't bring supplies, but transported the soldiers back to Turkey," said 'Abdu Samid Mahmud.

Villagers added PKK rebels had been hiding on Deli mountain.

"But they all left before the Turks came, we do wonder where they went, they just disappeared," villager Faysal 'Aziz said.

They added they had been virtually no fighting since the Turkish troops arrived.

But Lelkan villagers appealed in an open letter to the international community for protection against the Turkish troops, which they said had looted their homes and beaten their women.

Ankara pledged when it launched its biggest ever military operation that it would be limited, and said it was not occupying the region which has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

It has called for cooperation with Iraqi Kurd groups to patrol the Iraq-Turkey border once its troops withdraw. One of those groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, gave its consent to the plan Sunday.

Amid mounting criticism of the incursion, Turkey has also denied reports that its troops were looting homes saying they trying to ensure no harm came to civilians.

The Turkish army says it has killed 271 PKK rebels with the loss of 22 of its own soldiers in the two-week-old operation.

## Iraqi Kurds Plead for Protection From Turkish Troops

*NC0204095595 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[By Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lelkan, Iraq, April 2 (AFP)— Iraqi Kurds in this remote mountain village have sent a letter to the world pleading for help to stop the beatings and lootings they say they suffered at the hands of Turkish troops.

The letter, handed to an AFP correspondent on Saturday [1 April], called on Europe and the United States to condemn the actions by 10,000 Turkish soldiers sent to the region almost two weeks ago.

"They came in most of our villages, took all the guns of our men, have beaten or even touched our women.

"They took all what they could—gold, even our food—and killed many sheep," the villagers wrote.

Lelkan lies on the southern slopes of a mountain chain in the eastern corner of northern Iraq bordered by Turkey to the northwest and Iran to the northeast.

The nearest main town, Diyala, lies to the south. It is about 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of the main Iraqi Kurd town Irbil.

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The troops sent to the Chuarkuk region on the northern side of the mountain chain were part of the 35,000 poured into northern Iraq on March 20 by Turkey in a bid to crush rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) hiding in the isolated areas.

Ankara has come under mounting criticism for the incursion—the biggest military operation it has ever launched against the Kurds—amid concern for the safety of the civilian population.

European countries, including Britain, France and Germany, have voiced fears of a long-term occupation of Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and possible human rights violations.

Turkey has denied past accusations of looting by its troops, and has repeatedly said it is doing its best to ensure no harm comes to civilians in the region.

But the frightened villagers of Lelkan warned that if the Turkish troops stayed in the area, the several thousand residents would be forced to leave.

"We can't protect our women and children in the long term. We are not allowed to move. We are isolated because nobody dares to come to our country.

"We want the world to stop that," they pleaded in their letter.

They said a few hundred PKK fighters had been living in the region since the end of the 1980s, but they all fled in face of the Turkish military offensive.

"Nobody will wipe them out because the PKK just hide, disappear and reappear," they wrote.

"We don't like the PKK to stay in this region because they have made Turkey enter and air raid the region.

"But at least the PKK never entered our villages and behaved as badly as the Turkish soldiers have."

They also charged that three journalists who had tried to travel round the mountain into the Chuarkuk area were stopped by Turkish soldiers on Thursday on a strategic pass, blindfolded and held for two hours.

## Ramadan Meets Kurdish Council Chief, Members

*NC0104192695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 1 Apr 93*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan today met with the chairman and members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and of the National Council of the Iraqi Kurdistan region. Ramadan stressed that the actions by the gangs of agents Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani against the sons of our Kurdish people are a new page that shows these agents' treason and links with the Zionists and Americans, the enemies of the Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds. He added that this is another proof of these two agents' treason.

Ramadan noted that the exposed treason and agentry of Barzani and Talabani and their turning of Iraqi Kurdistan into an arena for killing Kurds and subjecting them to death, disease, and starvation will help expedite the Kurds' uprising against the agent gangs to restore security and stability to this area, bring it back under the canopy of greater Iraq, and cement the national unity of the Arabs and Kurds and unity of the land and history to build the desired future.

The head and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and of the National Council of the Kurdistan region expressed their absolute trust that the engineer of the 11 March statement [reference to Saddam Husayn] and of autonomy, which accords with the Kurds' rights, will restore security, stability, and prosperity to the Kurds and liberate them from the agents and traitors. The chief and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and of the National Council of the Kurdistan area pledged to President Saddam Husayn that they will continue their efforts to preserve Iraq's sovereignty, unity, and independence and to expel all the hireling agents from Kurdistan and to return it to Iraq's bosom.

## Geneva Office Denounces Kuwait's 'Lies' About POW's

*JN0104141295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 1 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent office at the UN headquarters in Geneva has denounced Kuwaiti officials' lies about POW's and missing people, whom these officials allege Iraq is still holding. It stressed that the aim of this allegation is to prolong the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

The office has issued a statement strongly denying remarks by Salim Sabah al-Salim, [chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee of Prisoners and Missing People], in which he alleged that Iraq was still holding 70 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti POW's.

The office stated that these lies are unfounded and prove that the Kuwaiti regime is not serious about tracing the missing people and only wants to exploit this issue for well-known political purposes.

## Iranian 'Violations' of UN Cease-Fire Protested

*NC3003201395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, The United Nations, 30 Mar (INA)—Iraq has again protested against the Iranian regime's continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran Accord on the buffer zone signed between the two sides.

This came in a memorandum of protest which Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, submitted to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali today.

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The memorandum says that the Iranian side carried out land, sea, and air violations against Iraq's territorial sovereignty from 23 February to 18 March.

### Writer Notes U.S. 'Exposed Collusion' With Iran

*JN3003183795 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 3*

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudai: "The U.S. Double Standards and Turning a Blind Eye to the Iranian Threat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The three islands will remain Iranian forever. This was how an official Iranian spokesman reacted to the statement of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] foreign ministers' statement following their recent meeting in Saudi Arabia.

Iran's determination of its position on the three Arab islands Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—which were occupied by the shah's troops on 31 October 1971 in collusion with Britain—was a rude message to the Arab League while it was holding its 103d session in Cairo to mark its golden jubilee.

What are the GCC states going to do vis-a-vis the usurpation of strategic islands that are part of the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] soil, which is a GCC member? How are the Damascus Declaration states going to react to the haughtiness of Iran, which rejected negotiations and international arbitration to judge who owns these Arabian Gulf islands?

Will the Syrian godfather try to contain the crisis ignited by its Persian ally in Tehran?

While we condemn the Iranian piracy, which embodies the racial Persian ambitions in Arab lands and waters and reminds us of the treacherous aggression against the Iraq of Saddam Husayn on 4 September 1980, we believe the U.S. stand represents exposed collusion and a reward for the role of the cowardly Iranian regime during the chapter of treason and betrayal following the unfair thirty nation aggression.

Moreover, the U.S. policy of double containment of Iraq and Iran adopted by the Clinton administration is hypocritical and hostile to Iraq and appeasing to Iran, which has been engaged in a feverish armament race for purposes that are far from being defensive.

Having obtained military facilities to deploy fresh U.S. troops in the sensitive area, U.S. Defense Secretary [William] Perry said during his current tour of the region that Iraq is an imminent danger while Iran is a subsequent danger. Then Iran's declaration of its usurpation of the three Arab islands, deployment of missiles therein, stockpiling of weapons, and activating a nuclear program do not constitute a threat to U.S. interests. Likewise, these facts do not threaten the flow of oil which is the mainstay of the Western economy. Meanwhile, President Clinton claims that Iraq, which has been under blockade for five years, is an abnormal threat to U.S. national security.

The U.S. Administration's stand on the Iranian danger to the Arab character and security of the Gulf is marked with dishonesty and deception. This stand seeks to secure absolute political hegemony, intensify the military presence, deplete the remaining assets, and manipulate oil production in terms of pricing and marketing.

The Iranian and Zionist dangers are two sides of one imperialist conspiracy against the Arab nation and its rights, sovereignty, and higher interests. The only possible pan-Arab solution to this Arab weakness and collapse is lifting the unfair blockade against Iraq—which is an indispensable step to consolidating the pan-Arab position and mobilizing energies to face up to crucial external challenges.

### Source Details Arab Countries' Debts to Baghdad

*NC3003195795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—In a statement to INA, a responsible source in the Finance Ministry has stated that the overall amounts of money due to Iraq as a result of its loans to some Arab countries which have not been paid have reached $1,282,779,000 as at the end of this month.

Following is a list of these amounts:

Amounts due to Iraq from some Arab countries as at 31/3/1995, in million U.S. Dollars:

| Amounts Due and Not Paid | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country | Loans | Value of Oil Exports | Profits Held by Arab Companies | Iraqi Central Bank Deposits | Total |
| Saudi Arabia | - | 429,716 | 4,361 | 18,578 | 452,655 |
| Syria | - | 353,732 | 1,123 | - | 354,855 |
| Bahrain | - | - | - | 255,550 | 255,550 |
| Kuwait | - | 23,561 | 22,619 | 86,111 | 132,291 |
| Somalia | 69,340 | - | - | - | 69,340 |
| United Arab Emirates | - | - | - | 16,118 | 16,118 |
| Egypt | - | - | 1,580 | 390 | 1,970 |
| Total | 69,340 | 807,009 | 29,683 | 376,747 | 1,282,779 |

### RCC Decree Sets New International Travel Fees

*JN3003170895 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 95 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 22; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 22

Date of Decree: 13 Shawwal 1415 hegira, corresponding to 14 March 1995

Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, Paragraph 1 of RCC Decree No. 86 of 17 May 1993 shall be annulled and replaced by the following:

1. Those willing to travel abroad, including the Iraqis residing abroad, shall be required to pay travel fees called (fees for easing the harm to the society) for each trip abroad. The fees shall be as follows:

A. A sum of 100,000 dinars shall be required to be paid by travelers 18 years old or more.

B. A sum of 60,000 dinars shall be required to be paid by travelers less than 18 years old.

Second, this decree shall go into effect as of 13 March.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman

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## Katyusha Attacks in North, Syrian Role Reported

### Rabin Vows Action Against Hizballah

*TA3103155095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin hopes the situation in the north will not get any worse. Reacting to today's events in Lebanon, Yitzhaq Rabin said that as long as Hizballah continues its attacks, Israel will act according to its considerations, which will make it clear to the terrorists Israel will not passively wait for them to act.

Reacting to a question posed by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz regarding the danger of attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets abroad—as was the case in the past after the liquidation of Hizballah leaders—the prime minister said that the threats of Muslim extremists will not restrict our freedom of action against those who try to harm us.

Rabin divulged that Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Islamic Jihad leader who resides in Damascus, last month visited Iran and asked its leaders for aid to enable his organization to continue the attacks on Israel.

Rabin also divulged that several times—via the United States—his government has offered Syria a solution to the Lebanese problem in the framework of confidence building measures, but Damascus has totally rejected this offer.

### One Killed in Galilee Shelling

*TA3103175195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[Menahem Horowitz video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One person was killed in a katyusha volley in the western Galilee today. Katyushas continue to land in the Galilee panhandle. There are several seriously wounded people among the 10 casualties caused by the shelling, and several buildings have been damaged.

The terrorists' katyusha volleys are apparently in retaliation for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] actions in south Lebanon last night and this morning. Staff Sergeant Yiron Lang was killed in the action. Earlier, Israel Air Force helicopter gunships killed a Hizballah leader in south Lebanon. Here is a report by Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north:

[Begin Horowitz recording] At about 1800 [1500 GMT] tonight the terrorists opened a katyusha barrage on northern border settlements. First they lobbed katyusha volleys at the Galilee panhandle, and shortly afterward the western Galilee was shelled. So far, there have been several casualties, who are now being treated. Damage was caused at several locations. Northern border residents went into underground shelters and security rooms, where many will spend the night.

The katyusha shelling followed a day of battle in Lebanon. Land forces, which crossed the security zone, together with wide-ranging helicopter activity, operated last night and today. The forces operated in several areas simultaneously. The clash in which Staff Sergeant Liron Lang was killed occurred beyond the security zone in Jabal al-Rafi'. A well-trained force was operating in an area where Hizballah terrorists concentrate. There was a short-range exchange of fire in which the soldier was killed and another was wounded.

The IDF has boosted its activities outside the security zone in recent months. The aim is to hit Hizballah terrorists where they train before attacks. Despite the activity, there has so far not been a decline in the number of attempted attacks. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Ben-Eli'ezer on Violation of Understanding

*TA3103180595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Yisra'el Segal, in the studio; live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, what happened today in south Lebanon? Did we carry out a pinpointed attack on a Mercedes car in which several senior Hizballah leaders were travelling?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] From what I know, this is indeed what happened. Perhaps there are more details with which I am not familiar. I know it was a successful operation; that the car suffered a direct hit and apparently one of Hizballah's leaders was killed. To sum up the situation as it stands now....

[Segal, interrupting] Did they violate the understanding?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am absolutely convinced they violated the understanding. We are all aware of the fact that over the last weeks and months there has been an escalation in the north. Hizballah started escalating its attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security zone. We had no alternative other than to retaliate. Our activity was restricted to the security zone and no civilians were harmed by us, therefore I believe they seriously violated the understanding and this calls for a reaction.

[Segal] We are hearing now that Israel Air Force planes are carrying out attacks, but so far this is being done within the parameters of the understandings.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] So far it is indeed being done in the framework of the understandings, but it is a good thing that the IDF is retaliating.

[Segal] Do you believe that Israel might react beyond the parameters of its routine operations in the north in light of the violation of the understandings?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] At this point I have no idea, because I am not in the possession of all the facts—such as whether

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civilians were harmed on the other side as well. I assume that at this stage the IDF is doing what it has to do.

[Later in the same newsreel, Nahariyya Mayor Jacky Sabag is interviewed by Yisra'el Segal about the katyusha attack on his city. Sabag is recorded as saying: "Unfortunately this is the first time in which a katyusha killed one of our residents."]

### Rabin on 'Total Violation' of Understandings

*TA0104114595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We begin on the northern border, which has been quiet this morning after the bombardment of katyusha rockets that hit civilian settlements and killed one Israeli—17-year-old Beni Yanusa, who was jogging on the beach at Nahariyya—and wounded another 20 people. This followed the fighting yesterday in which a young soldier, Liron Lang, was killed in a clash with Hizballah.

Visiting the target of the katyusha attack this morning was Prime Minister Rabin, who said Hizballah had violated understandings reached with Israel after the Operation Accountability:

[Begin Rabin recording] What took place yesterday I consider as a violation of the understandings that came about after our major operation in July 1993, understandings that were reached between Israel and Syria via the good offices of the United States, through Secretary of State Christopher. In essence these understandings had to limit the activities to the security zone to south Lebanon as long as civilian targets are not attacked intentionally by us or by the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. What happened yesterday was a total violation of these understandings. If Hizballah announces, and will stick to his announcement—that they don't recognize these understandings anymore—it will create a major problem to the understandings reached between Israel and Syria by the United States.

Yesterday I sent a message to Secretary Christopher in which I made it clear that I look at it as a violation of the understandings. Second, that we asked to clarify with the Syrians to what extent they stick to what was agreed with them in the context of these understandings. If the understandings will not be kept, not only by statements or no doubt by deeds, it will make a need on the part of Israel to take actions which I will not elaborate about what kinds or what will be their timing. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

### Rabinovich on Katyushas, Syrian Role

*TA0104130395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, held urgent consultations last night with State Department officials over the situation in south Lebanon. He also met with the Russian ambassador in Washington.

In a radio interview, Rabinovich said Israel is testing Syria's ability to implement agreements, including those in Lebanon. The ambassador rejected claims by his Syrian counterpart, Walid al-Mu'allim, that the clashes in the north were a matter between Israel and Lebanon. He stressed that Syria was a party to the understandings reached two years ago.

Referring to his talks with the Syrian ambassador, Rabinovich said that no progress had been made in the past two weeks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 1 April carries a recorded interview with Ambassador Rabinovich by Washington correspondent Arye Golan. Asked about recent reports claiming that President al-Asad agrees to open a low-level Israeli representation in Damascus prior to the completion of withdrawal, and that Rabin and Peres told Christopher Israel is willing to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights after appropriate security arrangements are implemented and a convenient timetable for normalization is set, Rabinovich replies:

["As I said earlier, the negotiations are involved and prolonged, therefore we would do better not to bank on various reports regarding this or that detail. Over the last two years I can recall many reports on breakthroughs, plans, intentions, and promises which have later proven erroneous. Therefore we should continue focusing on the security arrangements, which is the sole issue currently on the agenda. The discussions on the security arrangements are unrelated to other issues on the agenda. I sincerely hope we will successfully pass through this stage. Only then will we deal with the other issues that you touched on in your question."]

### Syria Reportedly Admits to Violation

*TA0204080195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. pressure on Damascus has led to a halt in the firing of katyushas from Lebanon, following firm messages Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin relayed to Syria via U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. From remarks Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made to his U.S. counterpart, it emerges that Syria admitted yesterday that firing missiles at Israel is a violation of the understandings reached between Damascus and Jerusalem in July 1993.

A short while after the missiles fell in the north, Yitzhaq Rabin called Secretary Christopher to say that the Hizballah attack was a flagrant violation of the understandings. Rabin demanded that Christopher pressure the Syrians to restrain the terrorists.

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Israel became apprehensive when Husayn Khalil, one of the Hizballah leaders, claimed that the shellings do not violate the understandings achieved at the time. Prime Minister Rabin called Washington again, requesting that Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich check, via the Americans, whether the Syrians still honor the agreement achieved approximately two years ago, at the end of Operation Accountability. Rabinovich called Christopher, who called al-Shar', who confirmed to Christopher that Syria still honors the understandings. Christopher demanded that al-Shar' act to calm the situation down, and this is one of the reasons why last night passed quietly for the residents of northern Israel. Last night, Rabinovich briefed Rabin on Christopher's conversation with al- Shar'. [passage omitted]

### Lubrani on Syrian Response, Rabin Warning

*TA0204081495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Mo'av; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] Good morning, sir. Does the quick Syrian response that the understandings achieved after Operation Accountability are still valid mean that by shelling our northern towns last weekend, Hizballah violated the understandings against Syria's wishes?

[Lubrani] I do not know whether it was against Syria's wishes, but it was a blatant violation of the understandings.

[Friedman] But do you not know whether Syria backed Hizballah's activity or whether Hizballah itself initiated it?

[Lubrani] I cannot say whether Syria backed it, but had Syria wanted to prevent such a thing, it would undoubtedly have been able to do so. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Did the slaying of Hizballah's al-Nabatiyah commander conform with these understandings?

[Lubrani] Without doubt. This is not the first local Hizballah leader, Hizballah activist, or local Hizballah commander whom we have struck. He operated against us daily, and he was undoubtedly a target. He knew he was a target of our attacks.

[Friedman] Yitzhaq Rabin said—I assume primarily for Hizballah's ears but also for Syria's—that in the case of another blatant violation of these understandings, such as the firing of katyushas, Israel will retaliate with any means at its disposal. Did his statement imply that Operation Accountability may be repeated if Hizballah fails to hold its fire?

[Lubrani] I think that just as you were able to read his meaning, they, too, can decipher the prime minister's intention perfectly well. They know the prime minister means what he says. This is not the first time we have been forced to clarify to the other side that we are determined to safeguard our interests. We do it whenever necessary, and sometimes we do it on a large scale.

[Friedman] Is there truth to the reports that Iran, the supreme sponsor of the south Lebanese terrorist organizations and particularly of the Shiite organizations, is finding it more difficult than ever to finance their activities as a result of the growing embargo by the West?

[Lubrani] I do not know whether or not Iran is having difficulties, but I am positive that Hizballah derives its capability, weapons, and financing from Tehran, the situation in Tehran notwithstanding. I do not think financial difficulties in Tehran will stop that aid; it may reduce it, but Iran is always the financier of Hizballah's activities in Lebanon.

[Friedman] Mr. Lubrani, in your other capacity, which is no longer operative, you head the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Lebanon. Why have the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations not resumed in parallel with the resumption of the Israeli-Syrian ambassadorial talks, although we know the two are linked?

[Lubrani] This is not a balanced equation. The Israeli-Lebanese track is totally dependent on progress on the Syrian track, and as long as there is no progress on the latter, there is no chance whatsoever of making progress on the Lebanese track. When the Syrian track does make progress, the other one may be resumed as well.

[Mo'av] Mr. Lubrani, why do you think Syria is attending the ambassadorial talks in the United States on one hand, while allowing Hizballah to do as it pleases, including operations that can definitely stop the process, on the other? Why, in your opinion, are two such contradictory courses of action being followed simultaneously?

[Lubrani] Because that is Syria's negotiating tactic: to sit at a table and conduct ostensibly civilized and serene negotiations, while, at the same time, pressuring the other party in any way possible in a bid to force it to modify its negotiating stands. This is a Byzantine negotiating method, and I think Syria has adopted it.

[Friedman] What reply did we receive after our Washington ambassador apprised his Syrian counterpart of the grave nature of the activities of Syrian-sponsored Hizballah?

[Lubrani] I heard the Syrian ambassador's reply on your program; it was a gross case of feigned innocence.

[Friedman] Thank you very much.

### Rabin Comments on Border Tensions

*TA0204112995*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 2 April reports that "the Likud, Tzomet, and the NRP [National Religious Party] have denounced remarks by the prime minister, who said at the cabinet meeting that if any region merits priority it is

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the Lebanese border rather than the Golan Heights. 'Uzi Landau, head of the Likud bureau, says that Rabin is behaving cynically in order to erode public support for the Golan settlements. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Tzomet faction is demanding that the prime minister apologize to the Golan settlers, claiming that his remarks are discriminatory. NRP Knesset Member Hanan Porat said that the prime minister is trying to sow dissension among the people.

"In reaction, the Golan settlers committee says that the Galilee residents should be wary of the prime minister's declaration that their region has supreme national priority. The Golan settlers say that such a region may soon become a candidate for uprooting and be given top priority in the prime minister's campaign of incitement. Ilan Ro'e, our correspondent in the north, brought the Golan committee's comment."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 2 April adds that "the prime minister asked several ministers to go to the north this week to see if they can meet the requests of the towns and villages there for more government aid. Among those whom Rabin asked were the ministers of the interior, housing, transport, health, and trade and industry."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 2 April reports that "during the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he does not intend to stop the political process with Syria in the wake of this weekend's incidents. Yitzhaq Rabin took issue with the opposition, which is demanding a halt to the talks with Syria, stating that just as the Likud did not stop the political negotiations after the terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, the current talks should not be stopped either."

The report adds that "the prime minister and the chief of staff said the shelters in the northern settlements should have been opened last Friday morning, although there was no need to order the residents into them because the disruption of life in the northern towns and villages should be avoided. Rabin and Shahaq also said that the northern residents were briefed on the situation as early as Friday morning."

### Rabin on Means Needed To Stop 'Terrorism'

*TA0204161995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the only way to prevent terrorism is through political means and asserted that in his view there was no military way to prevent the continued activity of the terrorists. Rabin was speaking at today's cabinet session which dealt with the situation along the northern border.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that during the meeting, the prime minister spoke about a defensive strategy which incorporated tactical measures. Rabin said that calm should be restored along the northern border prior to the Passover holiday. Our political correspondent notes that this statement indicates that the possibility of a Hizballah reaction to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity has been taken into account.

Our correspondent adds that at today's session Minister Shulamit Aloni expressed reservations with the assassination of senior Hizballah officials. Aloni claimed that after understandings were reached with Hizballah, there was no longer any room for such a policy.

### Rabin 'Closed Forum' Remarks on Syria

*TA0204120695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Apr 95 p 2*

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Hayim Shibi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has warned Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that the continued katyusha shelling of Israeli towns by Hizballah was liable to jeopardize the future of the Syrian-Israeli talks.

Christopher spoke with al-Shar' by telephone after he received several firm messages from Prime Minister Rabin through Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington. Jerusalem elements opined last night that the U.S. diplomatic activity would bear fruit, forcing the Syrians to put an end the firing of katyushas at Israel's north, even if they do not admit to doing so.

Rabin, who visited the northern border, Qiryat Shemona, and Nahariyya yesterday morning, said the katyushas were in gross violation of the understandings achieved with Syria in the wake of Operation Accountability.

Concurrently with the diplomatic moves aimed at quelling the activity from Lebanon, Israel and Syria pursued contacts in an attempt to bring about the speedy resumption of the officers talks on security arrangements to be held as part of the peace overtures between the two countries. The contacts between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors to Washington seem to have achieved a better understanding on issues to be debated by the two countries' army officers. [passage omitted]

Speaking in closed forums, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres emphasized last week that an agreement with Syria would immediately bring about an end to the state of war on the Lebanese border and to the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. "An agreement with Syria can save us continuing bloodshed in Lebanon," Rabin said in a closed forum. The Syrians had informed Israeli decisionmakers that an arrangement with Lebanon would be attainable even before the negotiations with Syria were concluded. [passage omitted]

### Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Pays Visit

### Arrives With 'New Ideas' on Talks

*TA3103162295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said on arrival in Israel that he has

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brought from Damascus new impressions which could help bridge the Israeli and Syrian positions.

Mr. Kozyrev told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that the new ideas he brought with him to revive the peace process received quite a good reception in the Arab countries and leave room for serious discussion.

The foreign minister will tour Russian Church institutions in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and will visit the Palestinian Authority in Gaza tonight and tomorrow. He will start his official visit to Israel on Saturday night.

### Kozyrev, Peres on Israel-Lebanon Tensions

*TA0204061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is to meet today with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres as part of a full day of events in Jerusalem. At a dinner last night, Kozyrev said the answer to the violence along the Israeli-Lebanese border is progress in the Israeli-Lebanese peace talks, though Foreign Minister Peres pointed out that the understandings on Hizballah activity were reached with Syria. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] The Russian foreign minister arrived in Israel as the latest round of Lebanon-Israel violence was in progress. Still, Andrey Kozyrev has work to do to prove to Israeli officials he can help.

Prime Minister Rabin noted to reporters in Nahariyya yesterday that the 1993 understandings concerning the northern situation were reached with the good offices of the United States, even though the Russians are cosponsors of the peace process as well. And, Rabin said, he sent a message to Secretary of State Christopher Friday, even as Kozyrev was right here. Last night in Jerusalem, the Russian foreign minister reacted to the latest violence:

[Kozyrev] As much as there is progress in the peace process on the Israeli-Lebanese track, the much there will be ability to crack down on terrorism and violence. Let's work for peace and against violence.

[Ze'ev] That was Kozyrev, referring to the Israeli-Lebanese talks, though Prime Minister Rabin noted yesterday that the 1993 understandings were reached with Syria, a point repeated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night:

[Peres] There was an understanding between Israel and the United States and the United States and Syria. I hope the Syrians will exercise their influence in Lebanon to bring an end to the exchange of violence. Thank you.

[Ze'ev] After his dinner last night with Foreign Minister Peres in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Kozyrev is scheduled to visit Yad Vashem this morning, followed by talks with President 'Ezer Weizman and working meetings with Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Rabin. He is to have lunch with Trade and Industry Minister Mikha Harish and sit down with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert before dinner with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. [end recording]

### Kozyrev, Weizman Hold Political Discussion

*TA0204131895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev met with President 'Ezer Weizman at noon today. Gid'on Remez reports that what initially seemed a courtesy call, apparently turned into an extensive political discussion.

[Begin recording] [Remez] Unlike the many other meetings Kozyrev called off in Jerusalem today, his talk with President Weizman lasted 90 minutes, much longer than necessary to invite the president to the celebrations marking the victory over the Nazis, slated to take place in Moscow in May.

[Weizman] We exchanged views about the world situation and Middle East, about relations with Syria, about everything.

[Remez] Likewise, the Russian minister did not specify whether he unveiled the new ideas he says he brought to the peace process for the president. My head is now full of new insights I learned from the president, Kozyrev said.

[Kozyrev, in English] I have my head full with insights and, you know, assessments of the world situation, the situation in the region, which the president shared with me.

[Remez, translates and continues] Still, in the context of the Holocaust and the Middle East, does Kozyrev now have a good understanding of Israel's concern about Iran's nuclear armament and Russia's possible contribution to this? Try to decipher this diplomatic answer:

[Kozyrev, in English] I think we discussed these things, and I hope there is better understanding of the concerns and the seriousness of the issue which somehow is a little bit true, to make the propaganda a scapegoat rather than a serious issue. [Remez translates the above into Hebrew] [end recording]

### Kozyrev, Rabin on Peace, Iran, NPT

*TA0204162895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met today in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. After their meeting, the Russian minister said he had advanced his ideas on how to promote the peace process and expressed the hope that they would gradually influence future developments, although rapid results should not be expected.

The prime minister presented Israel's position in the negotiations with Syria. Rabin also explained that Israel took a negative view of Russia's nuclear ties with Iran.

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In response, Foreign Minister Kozyrev asserted that according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] even countries which refused to recognize Israel or incite against it remain eligible for internationally supervised aid in the nuclear field.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the prime minister explained that Israel would not sign the NPT before a comprehensive peace was achieved.

### More on Kozyrev-Rabin Meeting

*TA0304100595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 95 p A4*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is currently visiting Israel, met yesterday with President 'Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Kozyrev abruptly canceled a scheduled meeting with Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish, claiming he was fatigued from his extended trip to the Middle East.

At their meeting, Prime Minister Rabin gave the Russian visitor a detailed briefing on the peace process. Kozyrev said that during his stay in Syria, he was given the impression that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace. Rabin replied: "Everyone in the Middle East wants peace. The problem is the kind of peace we are talking about. We insist on reaching an agreement on four issues: the location of the border; the timetable for a withdrawal to that line; full normalization after an initial withdrawal as well as an assessment period; and security arrangements. We insist on reaching agreement on all these components in one package.

Kozyrev replied: "Al-Asad is well aware of the four points you raised; however, he wants to see one thing—a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights—at the end of the process." The Russian foreign minister said that peace with Syria is attainable if Israel declares its readiness to conduct a full withdrawal. Rabin: "The present government has agreed to a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, albeit not a full withdrawal. However, al-Asad will probably not accept any less than what [late Egyptian President] al-Sadat had received at the time. Otherwise, he will have a hard time explaining why he has waited another 18 years."

Kozyrev said: "If one wants peace, one should take into account the upcoming elections in Israel, the United States, and Russia."

As for the Palestinians, Rabin said that there are no political problems involved in implementing the Document of Principles in the West Bank. The main obstacle is extremist terrorism. "If Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority do not do a better job of stopping terrorism," Rabin said, "there will be a problem."

Rabin criticized 'Arafat's mishandling of the autonomy's finances, which is delaying the aid from the donor countries. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev asked to hear Israel's position on the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and Prime Minister Rabin reiterated the government's official policy according to which Israel would agree to start negotiations on ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons two years after the peace agreements are signed with all the members of the Arab League and Iran.

Kozyrev met with Rabin privately for several minutes and delivered a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

### Kozyrev Calls al-Husayni 'E. Jerusalem Mayor'

*TA0304111595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev this morning had another meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. They both told reporters their talks had been very successful, but Israeli officials are displeased with some of the Russian visitors' actions during the visit. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Shim'on Peres and Andrey Kozyrev said their talks had been very fruitful. Kozyrev said his meetings with Syria's President al-Asad, PLO Chairman 'Arafat, and Israeli leaders had convinced him that progress could be made in the peace process.

Peres disclosed that Israel had recognized the Russian Republic, in principle, as owner of property in Jerusalem which had belonged to the tsar and later the Soviet Government.

However, Kozyrev was asked by a reporter why his deputy, Viktor Posuvalyuk, had met Faysal al-Husayni at Orient House after Israel had been promised that this would not happen. Posuvalyuk himself replied that Faysal al-Husayni was an important figure in the peace negotiations. Kozyrev was asked why he had canceled his meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

[Kozyrev] Well, two meetings, they were never scheduled, never agreed upon. I mean, I had never had any fixed meeting with the mayor. So, if he has a different feeling, I am sorry. But, again, I had never had this meeting in my schedule, as I never had a meeting with the East Jerusalem mayor, because I didn't want to meet with city officials. There are city officials from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and other countries who come to Israel rather frequently and have those meetings. My meetings are usually [words indistinct]. In no country on my trip I met with city officials.

[Katzenell] In calling Faysal al-Husayni the East Jerusalem mayor Kozyrev certainly did not mend his fences with his Israeli hosts.

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Last night, Trade and Industry Minister Mikha Harish canceled a dinner for Israeli industrialists and members of Kozyrev's delegation after Kozyrev made it known that he would not be taking part. Nevertheless, Peres and Kozyrev announced a number of agreements to encourage economic cooperation, and diplomats from each country will no longer require visas when visiting the other. [end recording]

### Beilin: U.S. Efforts in Syria Talks To Stop

*TA0304053095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Ministry Yosi Beilin says that if an agreement between Israel and Syria is not reached by the end of 1995 the United States will stop dealing with the issue. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Yosi Beilin returned from the United States with the same impression that has been haunting him for quite some time, that is that time is running out for Israel, Syria, and the United States.

[Beilin] The message I received from both the State Department and the White House is that the U.S. Administration believes an agreement can and must be reached by the end of 1995 and that in 1996—due to the elections both in the United States and in Israel—it will be very difficult or perhaps totally impossible to attain an agreement with Syria. Therefore, the efforts and commitment to reach peace this year are being increased, both on the presidential and the secretary of state levels.

[Raz] Is setting such a deadline meant to pressure Israel, or do they believe, for practical reasons, that if an agreement is not reached by the end of the year there is no chance of attaining an agreement between Israel and Syria?

[Beilin] I do not think the Americans can be charged with exerting any pressure on Israel. There is cooperation between us, a desire on their part to promote the peace process and simply an objective assessment that a breakthrough cannot be attained in an election year. This has never happened in the past.

[Raz] You have just returned from the United States. Rumors, assessments, and even reports have been arriving from there that progress has been made in the contacts between the two ambassadors. What are we talking about?

[Beilin] Progress has been made in the contacts between the two ambassadors. They are mainly, or almost exclusively, dealing with the principles of the security arrangements. Progress has indeed been made, although I was explicitly told by State Department officials dealing with the issue that if progress continues at the same pace it will not lead to peace this year. In other words, a breakthrough must occur, either in terms of procedure—that is, talks on a political level—or of substance in order to attain peace in the next eight months. These eight months are critical.

[Raz] Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin, thank you very much.

[Beilin] Thank you. [end recording]

### Minister Rejects Saudi Demand on Muslim Pilgrims

*TA0204162295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Interior Minister 'Uzi Bar'am has rejected the Saudi demand that Israeli Muslim pilgrims to Mecca carry Palestinian passports. At the cabinet meeting, Minister Bar'am said he will not allow the Saudi authorities to, in Bar'am's words, add fuel to the fire in the differences between Jewish and Muslim residents of Israel. He said all state residents will continue to travel with an Israeli passport, as agreed upon in the peace accord with Jordan, through which the pilgrims travel to get to Mecca.

### Officials Call For Toppling of Iranian Regime

*TA0304115195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 95 p A2*

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Health Minister Efrayim Sne and Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, each issued separate calls yesterday for the encouragement of efforts to topple the Iranian regime, on the assumption that Tehran's increasing economic difficulties would help facilitate the international efforts to achieve such a goal. The two men were speaking at a seminar on Iranian affairs held at Tel Aviv University.

Lubrani expressed the assessment that the Iranian regime is currently fighting for its survival and that the Iranian people are seeking a way to topple the regime. "People coming from Tehran tell me that the economic situation was never so miserable and hopeless," Lubrani noted. In his opinion, the country's economic deterioration is irreversible and if western countries halt their support, the regime's days in power could be shortened. "Some general could wake up tomorrow morning, send out 100 tanks and occupy the government offices and the television building," Lubrani said.

Lubrani added that such a development could only take place when the economic situation becomes intolerable. "Whichever government replaces the current regime will be a change for the better," he said.

Minister Sne, who was one of the first Israeli officials to warn about the Iranian threat, added: "Only a total economic collapse will make the overthrowing of this regime possible, and there is a realistic chance of achieving this. The Iranian gross domestic product is expected to drop 2

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percent in 1995, after falling 4 percent in 1994. The population's annual growth rate now stands at 3.3 percent and per capita income is $440 a year. We are hearing more and more reports about economic and social unrest in Iran as well as demonstrations and other forms of protests, even in the Iranian Army.

"There is anger at the government's pervasive corruption, with the burden falling on the weaker social strata," Sne explained. The two men were speaking at a seminar organized by the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. Both Uri Lubrani, a former Israeli ambassador to Tehran, and Minister Sne stressed the threat posed to Israel by Iran, especially when the Iranian regime felt it was in a tight spot. "The Iranian regime is not at all secure with regard to its long-term future and is exhibiting more and more irresponsibility," Lubrani said. "Therefore, as this regime gets closer to achieving nonconventional military capabilities, it can reach a decision to use these nonconventional capabilities in order to survive."

Minister Sne pointed out: "We have good reason to fear that Iran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities will be difficult to stop. I fear that there are only unpleasant surprises in store as Iran rushes ahead in its race to possess a nuclear bomb. Tehran could achieve shortcuts if it gains access to a supply of ready-made fissionable material or is helped by foreign experts. We Jews have already learned what happens when an ideology of hatred is combined with awesome military power. Iran represents the same thing today. Therefore, the seriousness of our attitude toward the Iranian issue derives from the question of whether or not we Jews have learned our lesson from history. Israel is using all diplomatic channels to make every possible effort to prevent the sale to Iran of technologies that could help it develop a nuclear capability."

## Peres, Rabin Deny Involvement in Gaza Blast

*TA0304104995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in Gaza say investigation of the blast found that the explosives discovered on a truck at Tel Sheva' last week came from the Shaykh al-Radwan Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] location destroyed yesterday.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the Palestinian Authority, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, has sharply attacked the Hamas for setting up an explosives factory in a residential neighborhood in the heart of Gaza City. In an Israel Radio interview, 'Abd-al-Rahim said Gaza residents know full well that neither Israel nor the Palestinian Authority had any role in the blast.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also denied the accusation by the Hamas organization that Israel was responsible for yesterday's explosion at a Hamas bomb factory in Gaza. Peres was replying to a question from reporter Jack Katzenell.

[Begin Peres recording] There is nothing whatsoever in this story. Israel has nothing to do with the explosion yesterday in Gaza, and attempts all the time to finger out Israel as the responsible party is total nonsense. Instead of killing other people, those gentlemen killed themselves, and thanks heaven they didn't kill other people. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has also denied any Israeli involvement in the Hamas explosion. This was at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which has been hearing reports on both the Hamas incident and recent developments in Lebanon.

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## King Husayn Continues Visit in Washington

### Meets With Arab Community

*JN3103204795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His majesty the King met in Washington last night with Arab ambassadors to the United States. [passage omitted]

His majesty also met members of the Jordanian community in the American capital and inquired about their conditions. In remarks during the meeting, the king said Jordan will do the utmost towards establishing peace in the region. The king said peace should provide stability for future generations. His majesty outlined Jordanian moves, which led to the signing of peace with Israel and restoration of Jordanian water and territorial rights. The king stressed that Jordan will be a strong and modern state and will set an example to others to follow.

### Stresses Respect for Human Rights

*JN0104085195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur have met members of the Jordanian community in Washington.

His majesty expressed his happiness for meeting with Jordanians living in the United States.

During the meeting, the king outlined Jordan's march toward peace since the Madrid Conference.

He stressed that Jordan's move toward peace comes after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel and after all Jordanian political and intellectual trends agreed to the choice of peace.

His majesty reiterated that Jordan will continue to pursue efforts towards reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The king stressed that Jordan will always remain an example to be followed by others in terms of political pluralism, respect for human rights, cooperation, understanding, and constructive dialogue.

## Israeli Officials, Counterparts Discuss Rift Valley

*JN0204131595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordanian and Israeli officials have met to chart joint strategy for plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. Jordan and Israel are seeking massive funds to develop the Rift Valley. The plan includes a three billion dollar canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea.

Delegates at the meeting at the Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah would also prepare for a regional economic conference in Jordan expected to be held in late October.

Acting Governor of al-'Aqabah Fayiz al-Khasawinah is heading the Jordanian side while Dr. Eliayakim Robenstein is leading the Israeli team.

### Further on al-'Aqabah Talks

*JN0204184595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israel have discussed a joint strategy to develop the Jordan Rift Valley and promote cooperation between al-'Aqabah and the Israeli port of Elat.

A meeting in al-'Aqabah of the al-'Aqabah-Elat Committee assigned by the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to explore cooperation between the two cities, was led by Acting Governor of al-'Aqabah Fayiz al-Khasawinah and Israel's Eliayakim Robenstein.

Mr. al-Khasawinah said the two sides discussed many areas of cooperation, including the environment, promoting tourism, and transit of visitors to both al-'Aqabah and Elat, energy, and health.

He said that they also referred a proposal to set up neighboring free zones in both cities to specialized experts for an in-depth study.

Jordan and Israel are seeking massive funds to develop the Rift Valley, including a plan to build a 3 billion dollar canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

Delegates said the meeting at the Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah would also prepare for a regional economic conference in Jordan, expected to be held in late October.

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### Kozyrev Winds Up Talks, Leaves for Israel

*NC3103165695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1625 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held five hours of talks in Beirut today. He met President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. [passage omitted]

The Russian foreign minister left Beirut for Israel this afternoon on board a private plane.

### Israeli Attacks, 'Resistance' Claims Detailed

*NC3103180295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] South Lebanon today lived a blood-soaked day amid assaults on various areas that shrouded peaceful townships and villages in a cloud of black smoke. The casualty toll was two martyred and five wounded.

Our correspondent Hayat Harb reports:

[Begin Harb recording] The Israeli occupation forces intensified their attacks on the southern areas today. Their helicopters raided a civilian vehicle on the Dirdghayya-Bistat road. Their fighter aircraft launched two raids on 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Their artillery carried out a concentrated and fierce bombardment of many Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, dropping hundreds of shells on them, including phosphorus shells. According to a preliminary count, two citizens were martyred, five were wounded, and there was huge property damage.

Southern citizens who spent last night under the thundering noise of hostile aircraft, helicopters, fighter planes, and reconnaissance drones, saw four Cobra helicopters overflying al-Qantarah, Frun, Haruf, and Shhur until they reached Dirdghayya, which is far from the combat lines. While two helicopters provided cover, the two others pounced on a silver Mercedes 280 on the road between Dirdghayya and Bistat. They fired two missiles at the car, setting it on fire. Civil Defense workers pulled two bodies from the wreck and took them to the Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre. The casualties were identified as Rida Yusuf Yasin, alias Abu-'Ali, 45, and 'Ali Salih, 50.

This afternoon Hizballah laid the martyr Rida Yasin to rest in his home village of 'Atshit. [passage omitted]

This morning southern citizens were awakened by the rumble of Israeli artillery bombarding Jabal al-Rafi', the southern half of 'Arab Salim, Mlita, Jabal Safi, and al-Wadi al-Akhdar with 155-mm shells. The shelling soon extended to Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jisr Habbush, the Nahr Habbush basin, Nab' al-Tasah, the periphery of Jumin, and al-Luwayzah. Dense clouds of smoke rose from the southern and eastern parts of 'Arab Salim as a result of hits by phosphorous shells. [passage omitted]

This afternoon the Israeli bombardment resumed against the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, concentrating on Jabal al-Rafi' and the Nab' al-Tasah basin. [end recording]

According to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the western sector of the south, Wadi al-Saluqi, the outskirts of Sribbin and Yatar, and the outlying parts of Haris came under Israeli artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions in Tallat Rshaf and Jabal Humayd. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance announced that its fighters attacked an Israeli ambush this morning near the Sujud position with machine guns and rockets. They clashed with the Israeli troops for one hour, inflicting verified casualties on them.

The Amal Movement issued a statement saying that one of its groups confronted an Israeli commando raid on Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The movement said its fighters monitored movements by the Israeli enemy in al-Jarmaq and al-'Ayshiyah. Amal placed its forces on full alert in all the villages facing the Israeli enemy's positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah to guard against any Israeli attack.

The enemy navy continued its blockade of Lebanon's southern coast from al-Naqurah to Sidon for the 16th consecutive day.

### Israelis Warplanes Reportedly Stage Raids

*NC3103162095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1556 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes have staged three raids on 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, and Jabal Safi since 1730. The warplanes are now staging extensive sorties over these areas.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in the central sector has reported that the towns of Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Jumayjimah, al-Sawwanah, and al-Sultaniyah are coming under violent and concentrated bombardment from the Israeli occupation forces' positions in the occupied border strip.

Here is a report from NNA correspondent Qasim Safa:

[Begin Safa recording] At 1815 today the outskirts of al-'Izziyah, al-Mansurah, Jibal al-Butm, and the Zibqin townships, the al-'Asi-Kafra road, and Yatar in the western sector came under concentrated and violent artillery bombardment. Bra'shit, Shaqra, Jumayjimah, Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Qabrikha, and Tulin in the central sector also came under similar 105, 155, and 120-mm artillery bombardment from the enemy's positions at the Tayr Harfa junction, Yarin, Balat, Tallat Bra'shit, Muhaybib, and Mashru' al-Tayyibah. The Resistance groups immediately fired rockets on the occupied territories and the security strip. Israeli warplanes are overflying the area at very low altitude. [end recording]

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### Guerrillas on Alert as Israel Vows Revenge

*NC0104094095 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tyre, Lebanon, April 1 (AFP)—Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas were on the alert Saturday [1 April] after Israel vowed to take revenge for a rocket attack on its northern Galilee region amid a flare-up of violence on both sides of the Lebanese border.

There was an uneasy calm Saturday in the border region after tit-for-tat shelling rocked Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon and northern Israel.

From dawn dozens of Hizballah fighters began massing in areas near the security zone, Lebanese security officials said.

Friday's violence fuelled fears of a repeat of Israel's July 1993 offensive in Lebanon which killed at least 100 people and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Saturday: "we cannot sit back if these violations of arrangements reached (with Hizballah) continue."

He was speaking during a tour of the border town of Qyriat Shemona, targeted in the Hizballah attack.

It was the first such strike on northern Israel since October and threw into question a tacit deal between Israel and Syria to prevent rocket attacks on Galilee after the 1993 Israeli offensive.

One Israeli was killed and nine were wounded late Friday when about 30 Katyusha rockets slammed into Galilee from Hizballah- controlled areas near Tyre and al-Nabatiyah.

Earlier Rida Yasin, 46, one of Hizballah's top military chiefs in south Lebanon, died when an Israeli Cobra helicopter destroyed his car with rockets near the southern Lebanese port of Tyre.

Seven Lebanese civilians were also wounded when Israeli gunners and warplanes hit back for the Katyusha attack. And an Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in a guerrilla ambush inside the security zone.

Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hizballah, warned there would be no peace for the residents of northern Israel as long as the occupation of southern Lebanon continued.

Israel sent an urgent message through a US intermediary to Lebanon and Syria to halt the rocket attacks immediately.

The Syrian daily Tishrin warned Saturday that "Israel has stepped up its aggressive actions in southern Lebanon in a dangerous fashion by launching raids, bombing the south and imposing a maritime blockade.

"The resistance is therefore more determined than ever to continue its actions against the savage and provocative Israeli actions," the paper said.

### Hizballah Threatens Attacks on Northern Israel

*NC0104174395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking U.S. Administration official has disclosed that Washington is holding contacts with the Lebanese, Syrians, and Israelis to stop the deterioration of the situation in south Lebanon.

Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said the Israeli settlements will not be better off than our towns and their inhabitants. He added: We will not lay down our arms, and we know that we are capable of punishing and deterring the aggressors in retaliation.

Hizballah Shura Council Member Shaykh Nabil Qawuq stressed that Hizballah intends to shell northern Israel if the Israelis target south Lebanese villages with their shelling. Security Sources say Hizballah was on alert today, and that it massed a large number of its forces near the occupied border strip.

### Hizballah's Nasrallah Interviewed on Situation

*NC0104210995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1925 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Jihad al-'Idan on 1 April; place not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Your Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah: You have stressed that the Zionists will have no security as long as the people of south Lebanon feel insecure. Do you have new plans and methods that will allow you to pursue a retaliation policy?

[Nasrallah] In this respect, we are talking about principles. In principle, civilians in south Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' must feel secure if the civilians on the other side are to feel secure. We cannot tolerate Israel displacing people here, shelling their houses, and killing men, women and children. Even if this is tolerated by the world's conscience, and if international organizations and big countries are not concerned about what is happening here, we are very concerned. What is happening here affects our people and kinsfolk. We are concerned to use every means to deter this kind of aggression. As for methods, this is a technical aspect that is left to the brothers involved in the operations of the Islamic Resistance. The methods are left to them, and I do not think that discussing this in media is useful.

[Al-'Idan] Your Eminence, the Zionist enemy is escalating their aggressive practices against Lebanon in these particular days, when officials from big countries are touring the region. How do you explain these practices?

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Do you classify them as part of the policy of blackmail against the Lebanese Government?

[Nasrallah] In fact, the aggression has never stopped. It proceeds from the aggressive Zionist nature toward our people and the entire region. Daily and constant aggression is the essence of this usurper entity's presence. The presence of the occupation forces in what is called the border strip is essentially one of daily and continuous aggression. Yes, it can be said that the escalation on one particular day or another might have its own political motives. Undoubtedly, the Israeli enemy is trying to apply pressure in various directions to affect the willpower of resistance men and the determination of all those who refuse to submit to Israel's conditions. On the other hand, we believe that the means this enemy has so far been using reveal its own weakness. An enemy who avoids confronting men face to face and hides behind his massive military machine, shelling civilians, imposing a naval blockade and firing at fishermen, and using its air force to attack civilian cars, as happened yesterday, is a weak enemy, incapable of challenging the willingness for confrontation and resistance that our mujahidin and people enjoy. I believe that all these blackmail methods, God willing, will be completely useless. The resistance will push things into a channel whereby the enemy will always pay heavily for any form of aggression against our people.

[Al-'Idan] Your Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, it is noticeable that the world is silent about the practices of the Zionist enemy, such as its blockade of Lebanese ports and its indiscriminate shelling of villages in southern Lebanon. How do you view this?

[Nasrallah] For us, this is not surprising. We should first discuss whether there is an international conscience, whether there are human rights and human values. We know that the United States, NATO, and the big powers in the world are driven by their vital interests in this region. Human beings mean absolutely nothing to them. I would like to point out the following, for example: There is a lot of clamor in Washington, extensive contacts between foreign ministers and ambassadors, and huge international and media uproar, when all that happened was that some rockets fell on some settlements in northern Palestine. Some houses were damaged, and a few people were killed or wounded. This awoke the dead international conscience. But many months have passed here in Lebanon during which a large number of civilians—old men, women, and children—were killed. About 16 civilians were killed, more than 60 injured, more than 200 houses were destroyed or damaged, and more than 75 villages were under daily shelling by the Israeli artillery. And yet, we heard not a single word and had not a single contact. Christopher did not even bother to contact the Israelis to stop this aggression—and he claims he is a fair judge and intermediary. Anyway, for us world silence is no longer surprising at all, and its reasons are clear, even to the children of our country.

[Al-'Idan] Amid this escalation by the Zionist enemy, do you expect a new, geographically-widespread Zionist aggression?

[Nasrallah] From a practical point of view, we work on the assumption that anything is possible, and that the field is wide open. We hear the statements by the Israeli enemy that its war and aggressions are continuing. Therefore, we do not rule out any possibility. In any case, we in the Islamic Resistance, God willing, are fully prepared and ready to confront any aggression, in any form and at any level.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you very much.

[Nasrallah] You are welcome.

## Amal, Hizballah Commands Hold Meeting

*NC0204061795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Amal and Hizballah commands in the south held a meeting yesterday to review the situation in southern Lebanon. The conferees discussed the continuing Israeli attacks on civilians and the losses they have caused.

The two commands issued a statement affirming that the southern villages are not fair game for everyone and that they will not be the victims of aggression from now on because the resistance will not allow the enemy to disturb the security of the inhabitants and to endanger their lives and means of livelihood. The two commands called for the mobilization of efforts and resources to confront the Zionist design.

## PFLP, DFLP Claim Attack on Israeli Force

*NC3103165895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1620 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued a joint statement in Sidon today, declaring their responsibility for the operation against an Israeli force in Sujud today.

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## Lebanon's Right To Resist Israel Defended

*JN0204084595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the Israeli officials' threats against the nationalist Lebanese resistance. It says continued attacks have become a basic part of Israel's provocative policy against Lebanon, swallowing the south and undermining the bases and principles of the peace process. The paper says: Thus, every day, Israel is violating the pledges and commitments not to escalate the situation and to give up its aggression and provocations. Moreover, while violating Lebanese territory, Israel is demanding that nothing be done in response to its aggression and that any resistance be halted without ending its occupation, expansion, attacks, and terrorist policy.

The paper adds that Lebanon is not an easy morsel for Israel's mouth, nor will it become one. If Israel understands no language but that of violence and aggression, international legitimacy ensures the right to resist the occupation and the right of all people whose land is occupied to resist the occupation with all means to bring an end to the occupation.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Had Israel responded to logic and to the principles of international legitimacy, it would have spared itself this heavy burden. It would have also implemented Resolution 425 and would have withdrawn fully from southern Lebanon, as demanded by the UN Security Council resolution and the land-for-peace formula. However, Israel is trying to circumvent facts and to create new realities on the ground through aggression, shelling, siege, combing operations, and destruction. It is also trying to evade its responsibilities toward the threat posed by its policy to Lebanon and to the peace process and the bases of a just, comprehensive peace. It is also trying to avoid responsibility for the possible explosion of the situation in the region as a whole. It is common knowledge that the occupation is the source of tension and danger. The nationalist Lebanese resistance has never been a source of tension and danger. Israel knows more than anyone else that the nationalist Lebanese resistance is the outcome of occupation and a nationalist Lebanese response to the Israeli aggression.

Addressing the same issue, AL-BA'TH says that Israel has twisted facts by claiming that it has the right to exercise aggression against Lebanon and that the acts of the nationalist Lebanese resistance are terrorist acts. The paper indicates that the Israeli game is not new. It is based on distorting the concepts of peace and making unreasonable and illogical demands that cannot be accepted by any honorable nationalist defending his territory and dignity. In all its unrealistic policies, Israel is focusing on the results and deliberately ignoring the causes.

The paper stresses that any rational analysis of the Lebanese problem leads to the conclusion that the Lebanese resistance is an honorable nationalist act approved by all international laws and conventions. It is the natural outcome of occupation. Putting an end to resistance depends on the removal of the occupation, which depends on the implementation of Resolution 425, that is the immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

## Israeli 'Accusations' on Lebanon Events Viewed

*JN0204153095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: What agreements or memorandums of understanding is Israel talking about? Is there any agreement in the entire world which permits besieging ports, starving people, wreaking havoc, and destroying homes while not permitting self-defense by any means whatsoever?

Moreover, why level accusations, make arbitrary statements, and hold others responsible as a possible way out instead of acknowledging the truth? It is clear that the policy of throwing dust in the eyes and frequent trickery—by alternately expressing optimism and pessimism—has not served the Israeli leaders' remarks that the peace ball is now in the court of others.

Israel has thus escalated the military aggression, expanded the naval blockade on southern Lebanon and the Lebanese coast, and held others responsible in order to undermine the Washington meetings and prevent the possibility of achieving progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The objective is crystal clear: Israel wants the Arabs to relinquish everything in return for the kind of peace that conforms to Israel's ambitions in the Arab region.

When this Israeli objective was not achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Israel employed such a method and did not respond to the international calls or even to the wishes of foreign envoys or their states. These states are uselessly trying to dissuade Israel from freezing the peace opportunity and killing it in its cradle.

The repeated Israeli threats as well as the arbitrary statements and accusations will not serve peace. On the contrary, such practices threaten the entire peace process, including what has been achieved for the Israelis and what has not yet been achieved for the Arabs. They also open the way wide for possibilities which no one can predict.

The Israelis should stop leveling accusations and holding others responsible for what is taking place. The Israeli leaders, even once, should make a logical and historical judgment on the issues under discussion. Let them learn good lessons from peoples' history. Peace cannot coexist with occupation no matter how long it may last. Under no regional or international circumstances can anyone in

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the world condemn resistance which aims to liberate the land. This is acknowledged by the international legitimacy and the institutions of the international community.

If the Israelis contemplate things just once, new realities will emerge in the region once a just and comprehensive peace has been established. Such peace will regain all the territories and rights. The basic task now for those capable of performing it is to end the policy of wide aggression Israel is pursuing against the Arab people and make room for tangible progress in the peace process.

However, this cannot be done as long as Israel is following the same policy and practices which conflict with both the substance of peace and the unanimous international wish for a just ['adil] and durable peace.

### TISHRIN Comments on Israeli Pullout Talks

*JN0304103395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN writes about Israel's evasion of the essence of the peace process and statements by Israeli officials, particularly by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. The paper says that Israel's statements on peace reflect a desire to achieve contradictory objectives. Israel wants to reach agreements that do not follow the bases and principles of a just, comprehensive peace. Through such agreements, Israel wants its security demands met without giving up its occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon. Therefore, Israel's peace allegations will remain nothing but sugar-coated words that are not based on the essence of the desired political solution and ignore the root cause of the regional conflict.

TISHRIN adds: In this regard, Israel raises many demands, cherishes many illusions, and attempts to reverse facts. This is seen in the Israeli assertion that their talks will focus on security settlements that are not linked to other pending issues. By other issues, Israel means ending the occupation. The paper asks: How can this issue be suspended? It is the basis of the peace process and the element without which nothing can be discussed. Syria will not bargain over its territory, nor will it relinquish an inch of national and pan-Arab soil.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Syria has responded to all requirements and bases of a just, comprehensive peace. It also responded to all political efforts, especially those made by the U.S. sponsor of the peace process to resume and activate the Washington talks. Eager to clarify all matters, Syria stressed that there is no peace under occupation and that there is no peace unless the Israeli forces return to the 4 June 1967 lines and unless Israel is committed to the land-for-peace principle. Syria demands commitment to this principle and a genuine and earnest implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy, led by the UN Security Council resolutions related to the peace process.

### Progressive Front Hears Foreign Minister's Report

*JN0204184195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting under Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy leader of the NPF, at 1800 today.

The Command listened to a political report submitted by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dealing with the overall regional and world political developments. The Command also reviewed the latest political developments, particularly relating to the peace process and Israel's attempts to prevent this process from reaching its sought objectives. The Command viewed these attempts as a continuation of the Israeli policy based on evading both the principles on which the Madrid conference was founded and the bases from which the peace process emanated.

The Command also viewed these attempts as something that compliments the Israeli policy based on intransigence, circumvention of the UN resolutions, and evasion of the peace requirements.

Moreover, the Command stressed Syria's firm adherence to achieving a just ['adil] and comprehensive peace based on the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. It also stressed the need for Israel to stop the methods of procrastination which cannot achieve the sought objectives of the peace process.

The Command viewed Israel's singling out of some Arab parties and its adoption of partial and separate solutions outside the framework of a comprehensive solution as an attempt to weaken the Arab position. This cannot establish a durable peace.

In its discussions, the Command focused on the need to achieve Arab solidarity and prevent Israel from successfully dismantling the pan-Arab ties and opening a gap in the Arab body.

The NPF Central Command highly appreciated the wise and courageous policy Syria is pursuing under President Hafiz al-Asad. This policy honestly expresses our people's hopes and our [Arab] nation's aspirations. It also highly appreciated the great efforts President Hafiz al-Asad is making to preserve the Arab nation's historic rights and pan-Arab interests.

### People's Assembly Speaker Qaddurah Interviewed

*NC0304074895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, in Rabat, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you view the peace process and the progress of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

[Qaddurah] The Syrian view is known, declared, and mentioned in all the news media. We in Syria, first and foremost, said we chose peace as a strategic option. This is not a new development. When we waged the liberation war of October 1973, we talked about peace, and we said we waged the war not out of love for killing, but to prevent the killing of our people. This position, declared over two decades ago, remains the same. But this position can never mean that we concede any part of the homeland's soil or any of our national rights. When they want peace—all of them, that is, the cosponsors of the peace process, Israel, and the Europeans—we say yes. But peace must be just, comprehensive, and balanced so that it can survive. Otherwise the peace process cannot continue or produce the desirable results. This, I think, is not the viewpoint of Syria alone, but the viewpoint of the Arab peoples and the Arab nation, and it is the opinion of logic, reality, and values.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

[Qaddurah] Thank you very much, and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs, the Arab radio that has played every nationalist role throughout its honorable history. We take pride in this, and we hope that we all express the hopes and wishes of the Arab people, namely, Arab unity and Arab solidarity, through the Voice of the Arabs, around which many people rally.

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## Afghanistan

### Ministry Urges Countries To Reopen Embassies

*LD0204180795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The faithful people of Afghanistan, especially the people of Kabul, are making preparations to celebrate the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], which were achieved as a result of 14 years of jihad and at the cost of the blood of 1.5 million martyrs. By the grace of God, as a result of the bravery of the Islamic army and the mojahedin, for the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution the city of Kabul has been cleared of the enemies of the peoples' tranquillity and the rebels. Now the people can breathe in peace and greet each other in happiness. The people want the whole country to be as peaceful as Kabul, and our people to live in an atmosphere of peace and Islamic fraternity.

While the city of Kabul, a torch-bearer of the country's integrity and sovereignty, is regaining peace, schools, seminaries, the University of Kabul, education centers, and government offices are returning to their original sites. The city markets, which had been closed because of the one and a half years of fighting, have resumed activities, refugees are returning to their homes, and work is returning to normal. The reconstruction of the cultural and socioeconomic centers has become important.

Taking into account the recent military and political victories, the positive changes in the interest of peace and stability in the country, and the elimination of the causes of fighting and destruction, the ISA Ministry of Foreign Affairs asks all friendly countries, international organizations, and aid agencies to open with complete confidence their diplomatic missions and offices in Kabul and to take part in the reconstruction of our country. Close inspection shows that the buildings of the diplomatic missions and international organizations are not in such a bad state as to hinder their normal and daily activities.

While repeating its request for the reopening of the diplomatic missions of friendly countries and international organizations, the ISA Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to do anything within its capability to alleviate any problem that might occur [words indistinct].

### Mojaddedi To Replace Hekmatyar as Head of Council

*LD0104174995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Let me draw your attention to a report we received a few moments ago from our colleague Khameneh in Islamabad about the latest developments in Afghanistan.

[Khameneh] The Supreme Coordination Council [SCC], comprising four parties opposed to the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of Afghanistan, has announced that it is prepared to negotiate towards the resolution of the Afghan problem. This decision was made public following a meeting last week of delegations representing Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's National Liberation Front [Jabha-ye Nejat-e Meli-ye], Hekmatyar's Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami], the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and the National Movement of North Afghanistan in the town of Mazar-e Sharif.

According to Dr. Rasul Taleb, the spokesman of the SCC, it was agreed in the meeting, in the course of discussing the situation in Afghanistan and the SCC's future policy, that the crisis in Afghanistan will not be solved through fighting. He said: the SCC has chosen Sebghatollah Mojaddedi as its new leader. Mojaddedi, who headed the coalition government formed by the mojahedin in Kabul for two months following the fall of the communist government in Afghanistan, will be replacing Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, in his new post in the SCC.

The SCC spokesman, who was speaking in the town of Mazar-e Sharif, added: the SCC endorses the UN proposal for the transfer of power in Kabul, but it stresses the point that a commission should be formed, comprised of representatives of all the Afghan groups, as well as a number of neutral Afghan personalities, and that it should hold its meetings for reaching an agreement toward the transfer of power outside Kabul.

The special UN peace-seeking delegation is trying to form an interim council made up of two representatives from each of the Afghan provinces, former officials and personalities, as well as prominent Afghan commanders, in order to pave the way for the transfer of power in Kabul.

According to the SCC spokesman, the SCC is stressing that the representatives of Afghan provinces must be chosen as members of the interim council in proportion to the population and in accordance with the social structure in each province.

## India

### Article Notes Pakistani Hospitality for H. Clinton

*BK0304100495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Apr 95 p 1*

[Article by Chidanand Rajghatta: "When it Comes to Yanks, Pakis Doodle Do and Indians Don't"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington—To hockey and cricket, just add that India got licked in the hospitality test too.

If coverage in the American press is anything to go by, Pakistan once again walloped India when it came to laying out the red carpet, this time for US First Lady Hillary Clinton.

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Her two days in Pakistan variously provoked gushy page one reports, reams of tumid prose and a sack of quotable quotes from the posse of hacks—largely female—who are accompanying her. Plus the usual slick pix and sound bytes for television and radio.

By the time she jetted into India, the enthusiasm of the reporters had dimmed considerably and perhaps even the attention of their editors had waned.

Maybe because it was the first leg of the trip. Or call it female bonding. But Ms Clinton's visit to Pakistan and meeting with Benazir Bhutto definitely stole the thunder, or rather the colours.

Here she was radiant in a red salwar-kumeez [Pakistani woman's dress]. There she was visiting the famous Faisal mosque, a dupatta [scarf] athwart her head. And there she was watching a camel dance after a lobster lunch. Almost always, Ms Bhutto was by her side, chaperoning her.

To boot, the contingent of journos [journalists] dug up arresting details about how Chelsea Clinton asked searching questions during a visit to the Faisal mosque because she was studying Islamic history at school.

The India visit was, in contrast, dull. Or business-like, depending on how you look at it. Some papers ignored it altogether while others buried it on the inside pages.

Instead, THE WASHINGTON TIMES which had splashed a colour picture of the First Lady in a red salwar-kameez early in the week, had a Washington datelined story on Friday that was to borrow a very famous phrase used by a very famous man, "a gutter inspector's report".

Typically, one paragraph read: "I have seen pictures of human misery that surpass imagination, mutilated beggar children exposing their deformities..." etc. Mostly true, but it left one wondering whatever happened to the day's New Delhi-dateline story.

The brief meeting between Sonia Gandhi and Hillary Clinton, which should have had the photographers palpitating, did not salvage the tedium either. And there were no pictures of the First Lady and the first little lady in front of Taj Mahal.

Panjandrums of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, which is opening its American chapter here late April following a Sonia visit, must have been disappointed that no American paper cottoned on to the photo-op and no American reporters as much as mentioned the meeting.

Old-timers will say all this is nothing new. Traditionally, the Pakis have always been a more hospitable lot. Particularly where it concerns Americans.

A defining moment in Indo-US relations which led to the famous American tilt towards Pakistan occurred in 1967, when Richard Nixon, then vice-president, visited the Indian sub-continent.

The Indians were cool to him, received him with the minimum of appropriate protocol and, if some accounts are to be believed, had Morarji Desai, with his spartan and unusual regimen, attend to him.

In contrast, when he went to Pakistan, his next stop, Yahya Khan rolled out the red carpet, lionised him and nourished him with appropriate libations.

Of course, it would be silly to think this alone caused the great tilt, but that by and large has been the story of American visits to the sub-continent.

And not even the fact that this time Ms Clinton visited Pakistan first and gave Indians a chance to improve on their hospitality quotient changed anything.

## Article Views U.S. Pressure on Nuclear Program

*BK3103113795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 30 Mar 95 p 6*

[Article by Mukul Vyas: "Why Should We Shun Our Nuclear Program?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lately, the United States has intensified its pressure regarding India keeping its nuclear option and missile program. The Clinton administration wants India to shun its nuclear option. Along with this demand, it has warned India against producing the Prithvi missile. Although India has not properly responded to this U.S. pressure, it has adopted a firm stand regarding its nuclear option. Recent steps taken by the Clinton administration at the official and unofficial level, however, might weaken India's resolve regarding its nuclear option. The basic purpose of this unofficial U.S. initiative is to stop India's capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons. A meeting held in Goa recently as part of the "Shanghai Process" is seen by observers as part of this U.S. initiative.

Last year in the Chinese city of Shanghai, experts, officials, and policymakers from India, China, the United States, and Pakistan assisted an unofficial conference to begin deliberations on various multilateral nuclear issues. This conference came to be known as the "Shanghai Process." The next meeting took place some time ago in Goa. The declaration issued after the Goa meeting emphasized the eradication of nuclear weapons and missiles and urged the countries to refrain from the first use of nuclear weapons in the event of an armed confrontation. The Goa conference also demanded an immediate and total worldwide ban on the production of the nuclear material used in weapons. The Goa conference also urged the countries to give their word that they will halt their production of extra nuclear material even before an international treaty on the issue comes into force. Observers of the international nuclear situation believe the proposal made at the Goa conference might prove awkward for India. The appeal for a promise to halt all nuclear production totally conforms with the proposals submitted to India and Pakistan by

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senior U.S. Administration officials. These proposals are aimed at making the two countries stop all production of nuclear material.

Keeping the world free from nuclear weapons is certainly a worthy endeavor, but it is an aim that cannot be achieved. The Indian Government is already committed to holding a worldwide dialogue on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and feels that in this way the treaty's provisions can be made nondiscriminatory. Experts believe, however, that in view of the overall nuclear environment in the world, such a commitment by the Indian Government is imprudent, because stopping production of nuclear material means abandoning forever our nuclear option. The Goa conference urged various countries to disclose immediately the amount of stockpiled nuclear weapons. This appeal is a trick. Although India is not a nuclear power, it has kept its nuclear option open. India also has large plutonium deposits that can be used for nonmilitary purposes. If India discloses the details of these deposits, it would come under tremendous pressure to place them under the purview of international inspection, and its nuclear option would be considerably weakened. Although India has flatly and firmly refused to promise to halt production of nuclear material, in the coming months Washington may again pressure India to promise to stop producing nuclear material—either in the company of the nuclear powers or together with Pakistan on the regional level—even if it lies beyond the purview of international inspection.

The first proposal to stop the production of nuclear material was made by India about 30 years ago. Ironically, America is now taking aim at India's nuclear option under the guise of this very proposal. A group of eight nonaligned countries—including India—suggested five steps toward nuclear disarmament back in August 1966: a ban on the production of nuclear material, a ban on nuclear tests, a ban on the production of nuclear weapons and their gradual eradication, a ban on the use of nuclear weapons, and a blanket security assurance to the nonnuclear countries. Even if the first two demands are accepted, the last three might bring tremendous pressure from all quarters to bear on the United States and the other nuclear powers.

Apart from its well-planned strategy to weaken India's nuclear option, the United States is also aiming its guns at India's missile program. Senior Clinton administration officials have told the Senate committee responsible for Far East and South Asian affairs that the United States is against India producing the Prithvi missile in a systematic way. Many U.S. nongovernmental organizations are striving to produce a conducive atmosphere to lend support to the Clinton administration's stand on the issue. While defending the administration's stand on the Prithvi missile, Michel Rees of Washington's Woodrow Wilson Center opined: "With the possibility of India producing Prithvi missiles on a wide scale and eventually deploying them, a great threat to strategic stability in South Asia has begun to surface." He claimed that the deployment of the Prithvi missile would probably start a new arms race between India and Pakistan, leading to the enhanced possibility of an eventual nuclear war in South Asia.

The Senate committee also discussed India's Agni missile. Michael Krepon, president of Washington's Stimson Center, informed the Senate that in view of the rapid improvement in relations between India and China, there was hardly any justification for India to develop the Agni missile. In a sarcastic dig at India, Mr. Krepon said that while India talks about the possible danger from China, it recently succeeded in acquiring nuclear fuel from China for the Tarapur plant. Another U.S. nongovernmental organization, the Wisconsin Project, in its new "Risk Report," claimed that India has already acquired the ability to launch nuclear weapons aboard missiles and is now busy buying important parts for its missile development program. Those who prepared the "Risk Report" say that if India succeeds in developing a long-range remote control system, it would not be difficult for it to transform its new space rocket into an intercontinental ballistic missile. This would alter every strategic equation in Asia, and India would emerge as a global nuclear power.

Discussing India's nuclear program in detail in yet another "Risk Report," the Wisconsin Project declared that India's desire to acquire nuclear weapons had increased the possibility of a nuclear war in South Asia. The report also lists India's plutonium producing plants and warns the Clinton administration that India can now produce many more bombs than previously thought. Obviously these reports serve the purpose of strengthening the U.S. stand against India's nuclear and missile programs.

It is essential for India to adopt a well-thought-out and clear-cut policy regarding its nuclear and missile programs, especially in view of the growing U.S. pressure, and respond firmly to this U.S. propaganda. It will take a couple of years to finalize the treaty banning the production of nuclear material. India ought to ensure that this international pressure does not alter its present nuclear policy. India must make it clear that any treaty aimed at stopping the production of nuclear material must have provisions for the eventual eradication of nuclear weapons and for a total ban on their use. In high circles the belief is going ground that because India has enough plutonium to meet its needs and even achieve its nuclear option, there is no need for worry. Looking at the fluidity of the international situation and the rapidly deteriorating nuclear environment in the world, though, India should take every necessary step following careful deliberation.

### Minister Issues Revised Export-Import Policy

*BK0104082895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The revised export-import policy has been announced. The commerce minister

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placed the policy before Parliament. The highlights of the revised policy include boost to domestic manufacturing sector, giving more access to import of capital goods, expansion of expo-promotional capital goods scheme, liberalization of the advanced licensing scheme and putting the services sector at par with the supply of goods. It also provides green channel facility to certain categories of exporters and importers; liberalization of diamond and gems scheme; and allowing free import of components, parts, and spares; and expansion of freely importable list.

Mr. Chidambaram told newsmen later that procedural difficulties faced by the value based advanced license holders will be minimized. He said that duty-free licensing scheme has been made more domestic supply friendly. The new policy would ensure adequate availability of goods of mass consumption at competitive prices, he added. The minister said that country's exports during the current financial year hit the $25 billion mark and is expected to be $29 billion next year.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Department has issued notifications today to give effect to the changes made in the duty exemption scheme in the revised export-import policy. A press note issued by the department said that changes will apply only in respect of imports and exports against licenses issued on or after tomorrow. The government today also announced concessional customs duties on 18 items imported from Sri Lanka following a request from Colombo. The commerce minister said a similar concession will also be extended to Bangladesh.

## Iran

### U.S. Attempts To Isolate Tehran 'Unwise'

*LD0104121795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0948 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition to the U.S. Middle East policy, particularly that country's position regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran, has also reached the American media. At present, that country's media, directly or indirectly, criticize the unwise policies adopted by the White House and note that the American people and their institutions will bear the consequences of such policies.

It is clear that the current confusion among the Democrats and the desperation of that party's ringleaders to remedy the recent blatant setbacks have caused the U.S. Administration to take a number of unplanned and unwise measures.

On the other hand, as mentioned by our country's president, during yesterday's Friday prayer sermons, several factors, such as Washington's political setbacks in attemptimg to isolate Iran, have forced the United States to make unwise and reactive claims and moves in the present circumstances.

Obviously, under these circumstances not only will America's increasing domestic problems not be resolved, but such reactive measures will also add to media and congressional criticism of the Democrats. In this regard, U.S. individualism in its relations with its European and Asian allies on the one hand, and that country's imploring diplomacy to end economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other, display a weak image of that so—called rich and powerful country. The adoption of such methods during the last two years, with the Democrats in the White House, has repeatedly embarrassed the United States.

In any case, as noted by our country's president, the adoption of reactive and unwise policies by the United States will further harm America.

### U.S. Stance Against Nuclear Access 'Hypocritical'

*LD0104141695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking in the politico-religious Friday prayer sermon in Tehran on 31 March, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dismissed deployment of any sort of chemical weapons on the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He described the current propaganda campaign launched by U.S. officials as meritless and false.

Over recent weeks, America has embarked on a large-scale political and propaganda campaign in order to intensify what it calls as imposition of political and economic isolation on Islamic Republic of Iran. New roles of U.S. political and economic offensive against Iran include the claims of U.S. authorities about a so-called Iranian attempt to have access to nuclear weapons and the imposition of political and economic pressures on Russia, Japan, and some European states to restrict their economic relations with Iran. These also relate to the pursuit of hypocritical policy aimed at disrupting Iran's ties with the littoral states of the Persian Gulf region. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his Friday speech, referred to these cases and stressed that illogical and pacifist [as heard] moves stem from the political defeats of the White House in its efforts to isolate Tehran.

America has no option but to accept the reality that the present day Iran is not the Iran of the ousted regime of the shah. The reason is that from within Islamic revolution there has emerged a fully independent system which formulates its strategic policies on the basis of the national interests of the people Iran. Since its inception the Islamic Republic has sought to maintain ties with its neighbors based on good neighborliness and respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, but under

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no conditions that overlooks the principles and aspirations of the Islamic revolution. It is precisely due to this independence of opinion and freedom in Iran that there cannot be observed any clarity in the overall record of the U.S. Administration's policies against Islamic Iran.

Even the recent order issued by Bill Clinton prohibiting U.S. oil companies cooperation with Iran in the development of oil resources has incurred losses in U.S. firms prior to halting the trend of Iran's economic development. Similarly, all U.S. attempts to prevent Russia from participating in the project and completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant too have proved abortive.

### Commentary Assails U.S. Presence in Gulf

*NC3103073695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 29 Mar 95*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Objective of U.S. Designs Against Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The disclosures by the White House and the Pentagon saying that Tehran has reinforced its military strength in the Persian Gulf show that they wish to generate skepticism about Iran. Several Western media organs and diplomatic circles have described these disclosures as a U.S. design to pressure Tehran. DER SPIEGEL said that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's claims that Iran has deployed chemical arms, missiles, and rockets on the islands close to the Strait of Hormuz are meant to intimidate foreign capital circles that are inclined to establish trade and economic relations with Iran.

Political observers are convinced that the White House wants to create economic problems for Iran by obstructing trade and foreign investments. Meanwhile, it must be remembered that the United States has tried to find reasons for justifying its effort to maintain a military presence in the region. U.S. military forces have been in the region since the Gulf War. So, the United States has felt the need to find a logical excuse for their presence. Obviously, that is all part of the U.S. design to maintain its military forces in the region.

Undoubtedly, these latest statistics are meant to provide a basis for the White House designs against Iran. These statistics show, however, that the United States controls 75 percent of the arms trade in the Middle East. Reports said that the United States sold arms worth $30-$35 billion to Saudi Arabia after the Gulf War and that it will sell arms worth $70-$80 billion to the GCC countries in the next five years. Apparently, those figures will be enough to explain the U.S. claims against Iran.

### Commentary Views Mubarak's U.S. Visit, NPT Position

*LD0204141595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in America Saturday ,1 April, on a five-day visit. In his talks with U.S. officials, he will discuss three main subjects, the most significant of which being the gridlocked extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT. America is determined, without considering the Zionist regime's obstinacy in ignoring the NPT, to persuade the Arab Middle East states and the Third World countries to sign the treaty. Egypt and many other countries of the Middle East and the Third World believe that disregard of the NPT provision by the Zionist regime, due to the profuse U.S. support for Tel Aviv, neutralizes international efforts aimed at cutting production and proliferation of nuclear weapons, and such an act cannot guarantee regional and international peace and tranquillity.

The United States deems itself as a pioneer of such a move at a time when an utter disregard of the demand of the world public opinion has let the Zionist regime free to produce nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Also, in aiding Tel Aviv to proliferate these lethal weapons, Washington has not spared any effort to achieve this very goal.

America's strategic backing for the Zionist regime, especially in extending and allocating economic, military, and technological aids, has boosted Tel Aviv's capability to attain a superior position in producing and proliferating destructive nuclear and chemical weaponry, thus jeopardizing regional and world peace and security. By intimidating other countries into joining the NPT, Washington seeks to disarm those states, especially the ones in the Middle East, besides placing the Zionist regime in a completely superior position. The Arab states, as a result of such pressures, now face a dangerous situation, and it seems that such conditions will totally influence their security.

Under these conditions, Egypt has announced that should the production and proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons by the Zionist regime not be halted and should Tel Aviv not join the NPT, Cairo too would not sign that treaty. Although Egypt is rated among the main U.S. allies in the Middle East, it seems that America's unilateral stand for and support of the Zionists has created a difficult situation for the White House. Hence, U.S. authorities are trying to somehow wriggle out of the current stalemate. It is anticipated that in the event of failure to break the present deadlock, there can be no hope for the continuation of the compromise plan talks, which is to resume shortly.

In the course of his talks in Washington, Husni Mubarak is expected to discuss the dispute between Libya and America and also the issue on resumption of the compromise talks between the Arabs and the Zionist regime.

### Commentary Calls Perry Visit to Ukraine 'Important'

*LD0104152295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry arrived in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, [on] 31 March, in the course of his official tour of Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. It is noteworthy that these four countries, in addition to Belarus, have inherited the nuclear weapons of former Soviet Union. Political analysts, in view of the nearing of the session of the international agency on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, describe Perry tour to this region as important.

Within the framework of its foreign policy, America has constantly shown concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons by other countries. For this reason too U.S. officials, in the wake of disintegration of the Soviet Union and scattering of nuclear arms among these five countries, have within their foreign policy been trying to deal with only a single nuclear power in the region; namely, Russia. In this framework, America, by promising economic aids, want these nuclear states to be disarmed.

The tour of the U.S. defense secretary to these countries is taking place under the conditions when Russia is grappling with crisis in Chechnya, and Boris Yeltsin is faced with a difficult situation. Also the nationalists and communist parties have gained much influence in Russia.

Political analysts say that the goal of the U.S. defense secretary's tour is to reassure these countries of U.S. support for Boris Yeltsin and continuation of America's economic aids to these states.

### U.S. Position on Tehran's Nuclear Ties With Russia Criticized

*LD0204124695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow based daily WHITE [as heard] STAR, in a recent issue, while sharply criticizing America's hostile posturing on nuclear cooperation between Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia, has urged them for continuation of such collaboration.

Russian mass media have constantly stressed the continuation since the conclusion of the agreement on the completion of the nuclear power plant at the Iranian port city of Bushehr, which aims to use nuclear energy for useful purposes. These media have asked the Russian Government to act in accordance with the country's national interests and to prefer these interests to the pursuit of U.S. policies.

Since the signing of the agreement on completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant between Iran and Russia, the U.S. Administration by launching a propaganda clamor and asserting false claims—charging Iran of attempting to have access to nuclear weapons—showed its hostility towards the conclusion of this agreement. This propaganda is continuing under the conditions when Islamic Republic of Iran is a signatory to the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and is also a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. On numerous occasions the IAEA experts have declared the Islamic Republic of Iran only used the Bushehr nuclear power plant for peaceful purposes. U.S. pressures on Moscow are being exerted when the Russian authorities have repeatedly stressed the continuation of nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia.

In the same connection, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, in his meeting with Iran's ambassador in Moscow on Saturday April 1, declared that Russian stand on the subject of cooperation with Iran for the peaceful use of the nuclear energy was firm and unalterable.

Political analysts believe that considering America's double standard in nuclear weapons and its total support for the Zionist regime in securing nuclear weapons, U.S. pressures as well as its propaganda clamor will not have any effect in the nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia.

### Envoy to IPU, Russian Official Discuss Caspian Sea

*LD3103193795 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, March 31, IRNA—Iranian envoy to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference here, Mahdi Yahyavi, discussed international developments and outlooks for regional cooperation with the foreign relations chairman of the Parliament of the Russian Federation Vladimir Popoprigora.

The two agreed that setting up an inter-parliamentary group of Caspian Sea states would help promote regional cooperation.

The Iranian envoy recommended that the proposition be taken up by the parliaments of Caspian Sea states.

Iran and the Russian Federation, along with the republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, border the Caspian, the world's largest inland Sea.

The Iranian and Russian officials to the IPU also discussed cooperation between the parliaments of their respective countries.

### Turkish Envoy, Borujerdi Discuss Operations in Iraq

*LD3103160795 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 31, IRNA—The Turkish ambassador here Mithat Balkan was called to the Foreign Ministry today to hear Iran's growing concern over Turkish operations in northern Iraq.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, told the Turkish ambassador that

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while hundreds of Iraqi Muslim people were being dislodged, Turkey should not compel those people to any further displacement and should discontinue its military operations.

Balkan submitted a written report of the latest operations of his government in northern Iraq and agreed to convey the feelings of the Iranian Foreign Ministry to the Turkish Foreign Ministry as well as subsequently inform the Iranian Foreign Ministry of Turkey's answer.

### Commentary Assails Turkish Incursions

*NC0304093995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 30 Mar 95*

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Continuing Aggression Against Northern Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign diplomats and news agencies continue to debate Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq as a priority issue. According to the reports from Ankara, the Turkish military forces' plans to end their operations are unknown. Prime Minister Ciller said on 29 March that the Turkish troops will remain in northern Iraq until they achieve their objectives.

Nevertheless, the international reaction against Turkey's aggression is gradually increasing. Ciller's chief adviser has visited Washington to participate in the joint U.S.-Turkey cooperation council meeting on Wednesday. He has said that the attacks the Kurdish opposition guerrillas in northern Iraq have carried out against Turkey was the reason the Turkish troops took action. He also said that the presence of Kurdish groups in northern Iraq constitutes a threat to Turkey. Regarding his views, political circles have said that they are convinced that the situation of the oil pipeline from Karkuk in Iraq to Yumurtalik in Turkey and the interruption of trade between Turkey and Iraq since the Gulf War have had a bearing on Turkey's penetration into northern Iraq. Furthermore, political circles are convinced that left-wing groups in Turkey share that view and believe that the trade between the two countries must be resumed and the embargo against Iraq lifted. In fact, the Turkish Government spokesman has said that the question of northern Iraq can be resolved if Iraq is allowed to return to the international community.

The political observers have said they believe that the Turkish military forces will not withdraw before Iraq's situation is normalized and the withdrawal of the Turkish troops in a short period is a remote possibility. They have linked their view with the rather moderate approach the United States adopted on Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq. Meanwhile, it is common knowledge that a number of political circles in Turkey, particularly several political parties and forces that are inclined toward the United States, are convinced that the Turkish military forces must not be withdrawn before a decision is reached on Iraq's future and a new government is established in that country. Nevertheless, Turkey's decision to deploy nearly 35,000 troops in northern Iraq to obstruct what it has described as 3,000 Kurdish guerrillas in the region cannot be explained in any way.

### U.S. Urges Extension of Sanctions Against Libya

*NC0304075995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] has announced that it is concerned about the extension of the international embargo against Libya by the UN Security Council. Toward the end of last week the Security Council again extended the sanctions and warned the Libyan Government that the two accused of planting a bomb in the Pan American airplane should be handed over to the United States or Britain.

The United States and Britain have accused two Libyan citizens of involvement in the explosion aboard an American plane in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] over Lockerbie, Scotland. For the past three years the United States and Britain have, with their influence in the UN Security Council, imposed sanctions on Libya with regard to the export of machinery and equipment relating to the petroleum industry as well as its international flights. This is aimed at motivating Tripoli to hand over the two accused.

Due to these sanctions, Libya's petroleum-based economy has sustained heavy losses. According to statistics disseminated by Libyan officials, Libya has suffered annual losses of $1 billion. In the past two years Islamic countries, the Arab League, and the OIC have repeatedly expressed their apprehension at the repercussions of these sanctions and warned of their harm to the lives of the Libyan people. The British and U.S. Governments, however, constantly insist on continuing and even intensifying these sanctions. So far they have given no definite documentary evidence to support their allegations and have made contradictory remarks in this regard.

At the latest UN Security Council session, convened to assess the extension of international sanctions against Libya, the United States sought to present its views to win Security Council approval for an embargo on the purchase of oil from Libya but it encountered the opposition of the other permanent members. While the United States and Britain are adamant in their policy on Libya, the world is increasingly questioning why nations should bear the brunt of sanctions stemming from the political games of the powers on the international scene.

### Commentary Sees Eventual Defeat for 'Arafat

*NC0304071595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The powerful explosion in the city of Gaza yesterday shook the occupied country of Palestine. No one has assumed responsibility for the explosion that killed five civilians including a child. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued a statement condemning those who caused the explosion and described it as a joint plot by 'Arafat and the Zionist regime, adding that it was aimed at killing some Hamas officials.

Political analysts believe that if acts such as yesterday's explosion in Gaza and the political consequences are not controlled and Palestinian groups do not safeguard national priorities with goodwill, the Zionist regime's plots will find greater scope for fanning civil strife among Palestinians. This will seriously undermine the dreams of liberating Palestine.

For the past two years, since the Zionist regime signed the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord, that regime has been optimistic that the accord would create a dichotomy among the Palestinians, under the aegis of which the intifadah—the most important hope of the Palestinian people for combating the Zionist regime's aggression—would be quashed. To attain this objective, the Zionist regime delegated power in Gaza and Jericho to one who played a lesser role in the intifadah than the other Islamic groups in the occupied Palestinian territories and who shared the Zionist regime's fear of the proliferation of Islamism.

Even though the Zionist regime formulated this plot with precision, the Islamic Palestinian groups—with a great sense of responsibility—prevented the emergence of all kinds of dichotomy among the Palestinian combatants. This preserved the priorities of the struggle, and the Zionist regime's objectives did not materialize.

Thus the Zionist regime perceived that its plot was defeated and, by adding conditions regarding the implementation of the Oslo accord, it intensified its pressure on 'Arafat to suppress the Palestinian Islamists. The Zionist regime is hopeful that 'Arafat will resort to this measure for his own salvation.

There is no doubt that if 'Arafat succumbs to the Zionist regime's plot in this regard, he will soon encounter defeat, as he will not find the Palestinian people on his side. Without popular backing, no ruler has ever attained victory.

## Nepal

### Demonstrators Hurl Black Flags at H. Clinton

*BK3103112695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 31 (AFP)—Communist demonstrators hurled black flags at Hillary Clinton, wife of the US president, after she arrived in Nepal on Friday for a three day visit, police said.

Nineteen demonstrators were arrested at the airport following the incident, police said. The flags scattered around the wife of President Bill Clinton and her daughter Chelsea, but neither was hurt.

Protestors from the the communist United People's Front (UPF) were outside Kathmandu airport waving the flags, and banners saying "Imperialist Yankees go home." They shouted slogans against the US President and the United States.

As Clinton waved to the crowd as she left the airport, the bundle of flags was hurled and police moved in to make the arrests, witnesses told.

The route taken by her bullet-proof limousine, specially flown in from the United States, was lined with further groups of angry demonstrators.

The activists were apparently angry over what they called US repression of the Peruvian people and the arrest of Abimael Guzman Gonzalo, leader of the Peruvian communist terror group, the Shining Path.

UPF official Tulsi Humagai said 19 group members arrested were only waving black flags and shouting slogans and that nothing was thrown.

Among those arrested were All Nepal Women Revolutionary Organization (ANWRO) chairwoman Hisila Yemi and Secretary General of the All Nepal Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) Kumar Dahal, Humagi said.

Before the incident, Clinton and her daughter Chelsea were taken to the "Very Very Important Persons" (VVIP) lounge at Tribhuvan International Airport by Queen Aishworya and Princess Shruti at the start of the third leg of their four-nation south Asian tour. [passage omitted]

Expectations for her visit are high, with everyone from the communist government to tour operators saying they hope to benefit.

The last major US political figure to make an official visit to Nepal was then vice president Spiro Agnew in the early 1970s.

Clinton—who has already visited Pakistan and India—will fly back to Kathmandu on Sunday and leave for Bangladesh the same day.

## Pakistan

### Government 'Satisfied' With H. Clinton's Visit

*BK3103145995 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 29 Mar 95 p 4*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The Pakistan government is satisfied with the outcome of the American First Lady's just-concluded visit, if nothing else for the only reason that it did take place.

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A senior official said the assassination of two American diplomats in Karachi in the days preceding the visit could cause the cancellation of the visit. Had that happened, it would have been a great embarrassment for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who is undertaking visit to the U.S. from April 5.

In fact, by sticking to the visit schedule the Clinton administration has conveyed its solidarity with Benazir Bhutto, the official argued. Perhaps the assassination of the diplomats was motivated to precipitate cancellation, he added.

First Lady Hillary Clinton visited Pakistan along with her daughter Chelsea from March 25 to 27 on the first leg of her 12-day tour of South Asia. She left for New Delhi from Lahore on Monday night.

Government circles believe that her visit has created a "favourable environment" in the Pak-United States relationship on the eve of prime minister's visit. She being the "ears and eyes" of President Clinton, can help influence the discussions Benazir is expected to have with President Clinton on April 11 at the White House.

But it is interesting to note that while the First Lady was quite forthcoming in her conversation and statements in Islamabad and Lahore, at no place did she take any position having political connotations. She hermetically stuck to her brief which was apparently political.

However, the Pakistani side raised with the First Lady, quite forcefully, its dissatisfaction over the Pressler Amendment which has caused suspension of delivery of 38 F-16s already paid for. It also updated her on the mounting human rights violations by Indian troops in Occupied Kashmir.

Wearing long dresses and their heads fully covered during their visit to the Faisal Masjid, the First Lady and Chelsea did convey the unmistakable impression to the people that they have good understanding of Islam and respect for its holy places. Only the more than needed security arrangement was the negative factor which could have been avoided.

The ease with which the mother and daughter conducted themselves at schools and other places also helped establish a positive image of the America's first family. They were neither royal nor officious in their movement, which went well with general public who saw plenty of them on television.

### Editorial Deplores 'Royal Treatment' of Clinton

*BK0304064595 Islamabad THE PULSE in English 31 Mar-6 Apr 95 p 14*

[Editorial: "The spectacle of Hillary Clinton's visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This week Pakistanis were treated to the grand spectacle of the entire Pakistani officialdom (and other elite) falling over each other to lay eyes on American First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter who were on a two-day visit to this country. It was a spectacle because such royal treatment is not usually accorded to spouses and children of world leaders anywhere in the world. Can one imagine Mr and Mrs Clinton, chiefs of staff, state Governors and Mayors, CEOs of various Wall Street firms and glitterati of Hollywood pouring out in droves to meet Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal, Bakhtawar and Asifa if they happen to travel to the United States? To imagine such an outrageous scene is to burst out laughing. But no, not in Pakistan. After all we are the hospitable type—especially when it comes to the Yanks.

And so it was. Mrs Clinton's visit became the highlight of the week, perhaps of the whole year going by this government's priorities. Islamabad was completely taken in by the razzle-dazzle of the American entourage. And as if to show their utter contempt for their hosts, the Americans brushed aside all Pakistani security arrangements as their own people took control. Pakistani police and security agencies, perhaps oblivious of the humiliation that had been heaped upon them, looked on meekly, from the sidelines, as the Yankee boys in dark suits and dark shades went around checking arrangements, tasting food and monitoring the general goings-on of their President's wife.

Our very own dear Prime Minister [PM] must have been in seventh heaven, rubbing shoulders with Mrs Clinton. After all how often does it happen that mentors come trotting to meet those who are dying to enjoy their patronage. And doubly so, if the Washington visit of our PM is around the corner—visit which contain 'make-or-break' ingredients for Ms Bhutto.

Red carpets were thus rolled out and spread all the way from Islamabad to Lahore. Even the Wattoos and Altafs of the world got an opportunity to play host. But these politicos were not alone in establishing new records of grovelling. The national press too went overboard to project the American First Lady, splashing her photographs on front pages and faithfully following her engagements. Imagine the New York Times and The Washington Post adorning its pages with photos of Mr. Zardar. Sounds a trifle ridiculous, doesn't it?

But then maybe, the prime minister was faithfully following the footsteps of her father. The elder Bhutto too had gone out of his way to welcome the then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and his son who had graced Pakistan with their visit. They too, had been feasted in the Lahore fort and made to feel like kings visiting their vassals. But the royal treatment did not pay much dividends to Mr. Bhutto, as history testifies. Does Ms Bhutto think she may be treated differently by the yanks? If she does, she has another think coming because when it comes down to the crunch, all the sycophancy in the world will not deter the Yanks from doing what they have to do. Ms. Bhutto should stop waiting for the arrival of the Seventh Fleet. It ain't coming!

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### Suspect in World Trade Center Bombing Released

*BK0304065895 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 3 Apr 95 pp 8, 7*

[Report by Gul Farzana]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quetta—Akhtar Mohammad, arrested in connection with the case of World Trade Center bombing suspect Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf and wanted by the U.S. Government, has been released. According to the details, the U.S. CIA and the Pakistani Federal Investigation Agency arrested a young man named Akhtar Mohammad a few weeks ago in connection with the Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf case and brought him to Islamabad from Quetta. He was later released in Islamabad because his crimes could not be proved. Akhtar Mohammad reached Quetta this evening [2 April]. It may be recalled that Akhtar Mohammad was accused in the bombing of the World Trade Center.

### Alleged Ramzi Yusuf Accomplice Sent to Karachi

*BK0304090895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Apr 95 p 12*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—An alleged accomplice of Yusuf Ahmad Ramzi has been brought to the city in custody from Peshawar and handed over to the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Karachi this week, official sources disclosed to The News on Sunday.

Accused Abdul Shakur was arrested by a special squad of the CIA Peshawar which suspected him a close associate of Yusuf Ahmad Ramzi during initial interrogation and then shifted him to Karachi for formal investigation in connection with the alleged attempt on the prime minister's life before the last elections, sources said.

Confessing that he was an associate of Ramzi the sources said, the suspect revealed that one Khalid, belonging to an Iranian-Baluch tribe, had been in Saudi Arabia and had smuggled two detonators and a wireless set to the country with the help of his Saudi sponsor Yaqub al-Bakr. These items were later handed over to Shakur in an Afghan refugee camp in Pabi, NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

The sources said that the suspect further confessed that he later handed over the devices to Ramzi, also known as Abdul Basit on July 23 1993 while he was staying at Fl No: 402 Nidia Towers, Nanakwara owned by one Abdul Hakim.

He also revealed that Yaqub's message "to kill the prime minister before the elections' was conveyed to Ramzi through Khalid and then by himself. But before the attempt, the bomb exploded in Ramzi's hands, causing injuries to him. Khalid took him to Civil Hospital where Ramzi posed as Khalid Ali vide ML No 3936/93.

Ramzi was later shifted to Aga Khan Hospital where he was admitted under the name of Adam Baluch. Once, however, he had also been treated in the ENT [ears, nose and throat] ward of the JPMC [Jinnah Postgraduate Medical College] under his original name.

Suspect Abdul Shakur has been booked under section 4/5 of the Explosive Act and 120-B PPC [Pakistan Penal Code].

### Background of Accomplice Detailed

*BK0304101395 Lahore THE FRIDAY TIMES in English 30 Mar-5 Apr 95 p 3*

[Article by Mohammad Mirza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mohammad Mirza is privy to the interrogation of Abdul Shakur, a Ramzi-accomplice who was recently arrested in Peshawar. An Islamic extremist group led by Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf is suspected of involvement in the murder of several leaders of Sipah-e Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) including that of Haq Nawaz Jangvi. Mr Ramzi Yusuf's group is also thought to have tried to assassinate Benazir Bhutto in 1993 and may be behind the terrorist attack in which two American officials were killed in Karachi last month. Ramzi is one of the main suspects in the New York World Trade Center bombing in 1992.

These sensational discloses were made by a Ramzi-accomplice, Abdul Shakur, who was recently arrested from Peshawar. Shakur has confessed to government officials that along with Ramzi and Abdul Hakim (who is in Dubai), he had been assigned the job of assassinating Benazir Bhutto in July, 1993. He says that the three of them received a large sum of money for this purpose, of which over Rs 3 million still remains in the vaults of a foreign bank in Karachi.

The investigation agencies are also looking into other aspects of the conspiracy to eliminate Mr Bhutto by radical Islamic groups who fervently believe that a woman, least of all a pro-West one, should not be allowed to remain prime minister of an Islamic country.

Shakur was initially arrested by the Railway police in Peshawar but was later handed over to an intelligence agency for interrogation. He claims political affiliation with the Jamaat-i-Islami but has admitted to contacts in the SSP. His 8-page statement and the interrogation report highlights the alleged conspiracy of Islamic militants most of whom took part in the Afghan war.

Abdul Shakur is an Iranian Baluch who was born in Karachi in 1972. Since his father was later employed in Kuwait, Shakur's primary education took place in Madrassa Shahrul Iman in Kuwait. After the Iran-Iraq war, however, the family took a job in workshop in Lyari. Here he met up with Abu Hudefa, a Palestinian who was known to Shakur from his days in Kuwait. Abu Hudefa was a student at Karachi University who later went off to Afghanistan and died during the war.

Shakur says that when he decided to participate in the Afghan Jehad, he went to an Afghan camp named

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Bait-ul-Ansar situated at Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar, which was inhabited mainly by Arabs. Here he met the Amir of Bait-ul-Ansar who took him, along with others similarly inclined, to Khowst in Afghanistan where all the recruits were given military training at a camp called Al-Faruq. "I spent four months in that camp and after that came back to Karachi. But in early 1993 I went to Afghanistan again for further training". Later, says Shakur, he joined the training camp at Khuldas in Afghanistan but returned to Karachi after his training was over.

Shakur then met Hafiz Abdul Hai of Rehmania Masjid who introduced him to Hafiz Dur Mohammad (the latter has also been arrested by the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) from Lyari), whose views and experiences were similar to his.

Shakur's contact with Ramzi Yusuf was established when Yaqub al-Bakr, a Saudi national, and Khalid Baluch, an Iranian national, gave him two detonators and one wireless set and asked him to deliver these to Ramzi Yusuf alias Abdul Basit in Karachi.

Ramzi and Shakur then got together to plan the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. Along with Hakim, they chose the site in July. 1993, where the remote control bomb was to be planted. In the preparation of the bomb, however, the detonator exploded, injuring Ramzi who had to be taken (as Adam) to the Aga Khan Hospital for operation on an eye and finger.

Shakur says that he met Abdul Majid Madni (whose real name was later revealed to be Munir Ibrahim Ahmad) at the hospital when Ramzi's friends came to enquire about his health. Madni (Ahmad) was then living in Madeena Munawara and he said he was in the import-export business. He said that he imported containers of "Abe Zam" from Saudi Arabia for sale to Karachi through a company called Al-Majid Importers and Exporters. Shakur describes Abdul Majid Madani as being a close friend of Ramzi who was staunchly anti-Shia.

The interrogation of Shakur has also revealed, for the first time, that Ramzi's gang was involved in some bomb explosions and killings in Iran. Shakur confesses in his statement that he was told by Abdul Munim, one of Ramzi's two brothers, that he and his brothers including Ramzi were responsible for the bomb blast in Mashhad (Iran) which left hundreds dead or wounded.

Shakur has also admitted that his gang had planned an attack on the leader of a Sunni Tehrik, Dr Salim Qadri, who was against the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP). For this purpose, he says that he bought a 30 bore pistol and silencer for Rs 8,500 and handed these over to Arif Tajik (now in police custody) for killing Dr Qadri.

Shakur has also told the authorities how a number of extremists from other militant groups came together for a common purpose. For example, he has named six militants of the former Al-Zulfiqar [AZO] who are now working for the SSP. They are Bilal (code name Bob), Rashid (Hamza), Arshad (Saleh), Shahid (Hifza), Junaid (Samir) and Abdul Majid (Emar).

Shakur says that Ramzi's group obtained arms and ammunition from AZO militants, some of whom were also sent to Khowst in Afghanistan for training in the use of explosives.

The investigation team have also been given a list of Afghan camps in Pakistan and across the boarder where such groups are said to be getting regular military training. One of the main camps is in Rakshore where the Islamic militants are said to receive training in how to hijack planes, use explosives and wield arms. The command of these camps, he says, is invariably in the hands of Arab instructors.

It is also now known where two of Ramzi's brothers, Abdul Munim and Abdul Karim, used to live. Muneem lived near the Iranian Mehman Khana in Querra while Karim (an engineer) had a rented house in Defence Housing Society in Karachi. Both have now fled either to Afghanistan or to some Arab country, say the interrogating agencies.

The Ramzi Yusuf case has taken quite a dramatic turn following the disclosure by prime minister Benazir Bhutto that Ramzi had planned to assassinate her in 1993. But crucial elements of information are still missing. For example, asks the government. "who is behind Ramzi Yusuf"? The fact that he and others like him have been able to operate in Pakistan with such impunity for years warrants serious concern say officials.

A massive hunt for the arrest of Ramzi's accomplices has now been launched by the government. Over two dozen persons including some Arab nationals have been rounded up from different parts of the country for questioning. "There is no doubt that some people are behind Ramzi", says a top TFT [THE FRIDAY TIMES] source in the police, a number of training camps have also been identified bu: so far we have not behind such terrorism".

Top police officials would like to bring back Ramzi and interogate him but the chances of that happening are not very bright at the moment. The United States government is already interrogating him and doesn't want any interference from Pakistani officials. Bringing him back to Pakistan to stand trial would also create difficulties since militant Islamists would promptly take up cudgels on his behalf.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent move against Islamic extremists, particularly those foreign nationals who are suspected to be getting arms training in Pakistan and Afghanistan, may have also put her own life in serious danger. Many has arbitrarily packed off Ramzi to their arch-enemy USA without giving him an opportunity to defend himself in Pakistan.

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## Sri Lanka

### Official Denies Nerve Gas Sent by Aum Sect

*OW0204072495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 2 KYODO—A high-ranking police official Sunday [2 April] denied a newspaper report that the secretive Japanese sect suspected of a possible link to last month's nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways sent a quantity of the lethal gas to its branch in Galle, southern Sri Lanka.

According to the report in the SUNDAY ISLAND, a lawyer for the Aum Shinrikyo cult had told Japanese police that the chemical sarin was sent to fertilize a rice field owned by the sect in Galle.

The report added the Galle branch of the sect owns a tea company as well and its tea products are marketed in Japan under the brand name "Aum Tea."

The newspaper also reported that the sect's leader had been seen on Japanese TV shaking hands with former Sri Lankan President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga.

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